



# THE OTHER PRESS

Lookin' for love in all the wrong places since 1976

TO: Douglas College



Love: the OP  
BFA!

# Happy Valentine's Day!



# The Other Press

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## Lettitor

Long time no see, I've missed you all dearly, as I'm sure you've missed me. We had a lovely two weeks off, thanks for asking. The Canadian University Press national conference in Edmonton was both educational and entertaining. We met a lot of great people and stole a lot of great ideas from their papers,

so you may be seeing some changes around here. Don't be frightened, though—change is good.

Luckily, we made it back in time for Valentine's Day. Oddly enough, this marks the second consecutive year in which I've actually had a Valentine on Valentine's Day. And it's the *same* person even. Crazy, I know. It's lovely, but I'm still finding it strange adjusting. I used to quite enjoy the role of the bitter cynic who scoffed at the concept of a consumer-created holiday that was designed to make the lonely feel lonelier. Now, I find myself comparison-shopping for animatronic plush mice that sing "Love Shack" when you squeeze their feet. But don't worry about me. I may have a wonderful Valentine in my corner, but there're still plenty of other days in the year for me to play the bitter cynic. Like Boxing Day, or Earth Day, and don't even get me started on Mother's Day.

Hopefully, you are all fortunate enough to have someone special to share the 14th of February with, but if not...will you be our Valentine? The Other Press is the per-

fect mate—it's informative and attractive, you never have to buy it dinner, and it doesn't mind sitting at home on the shelf when you need a night out with the boys/girls. This week, our pages and our hearts are bursting with Valentine's Day fare. Plus, we've got an update on the BCGEU strike, articles on the same-sex marriage debate, and lots of new and exciting sports-type stuff. So c'mon, say yes, and make us the happiest paper in the world.

Meet you in the heart-shaped hot tub,  
—Amanda Aikman, Managing Editor



## Submission Guidelines

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday for publication the following Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sections, and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday noon and can be submitted to the editor at: <othereditor@yahoo.ca>.

All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor. Please include your name, phone number/email address, and word count, and submit via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the attention of the appropriate editor.

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The Other Press is Douglas College's autonomous student newspaper.

The Other Press is run as a collective and is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly (as a magazine) during the summer.

We receive our funding from a student levy collected every semester at registra-

tion, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of student newspapers from across Canada. We adhere to CUP's Statement of Common Principles and Code of Ethics—except when it suits us not to. The Other Press reserves the right

to choose what to publish, and will not publish material that is racist, sexist, or homophobic. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.

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# The Other Press Mailbag

The following letter has been edited for house style, but not for content. We love getting mail here at the OP—love letters, hate letters, or even just a “hello, how are you?” So please, drop us a line at [othereditor@yahoo.ca](mailto:othereditor@yahoo.ca)

Dear Editor,

About ten years ago the federal government's greed for cigarette-tax revenue fanned a once small illicit trade into a huge business, and was covered nightly on the news. In short, Canadian smokers, struck with yet another tax increase, sought a way to bypass paying the tax at all. Our entrepreneurial Native Canadians also saw a way to make a buck at the expense of the federal government.

And so, each night, for weeks, our television showed us a few heroic scofflaws in scruffy aluminum fishing boats bringing heaped cargoes of untaxed cigarettes across the Canada/US border. The Feds found that these few border-runners were doing so well

that government revenue from cigarette tax fell sharply. After a few months, the Feds were forced to drop the price of cigarettes by half in Ontario, and somewhat less in other areas. “Better to have some tax than no tax,” was probably their thinking.

I returned to Douglas College a few weeks back and was staggered at the price of textbooks. Now, I am sure there are many reasons why a first-year textbook may cost \$140 and more a small market, rapidly dated information requiring revisions, full-colour printing costs but it still seems to me a shocking price. I also believe (perhaps in error) that there must be an element of the writers, publishers, printers, and sellers taking advantage of this closed market.

And so, I wonder: if a few guys in bat-

tered tin boats and rin-tin-rin outboard engines can make the powerful Feds rethink their pricing of cigarettes, couldn't a few students with access to a photocopier force a reduction of textbook prices? After all, every course has a copy of the required text in the library, and five-cent copies are still available. This is, of course, purely hypothetical I don't for an instant suggest students should break any copyright laws.

To the individuals of Ganasatake (sp?)—take this as late applause from a Redcoat. Imitation, it is said, is the sincerest form of flattery.

Regards,  
Redcoat

## Kiss Us, We're Irish

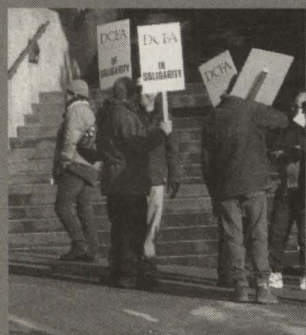
In the January 12 edition of the Other Press, we ran a story in our News section entitled “Is the Valech Report Pulling the Plug on Pinochet?” It was a great story. However, an anonymous reader expressed concern over the word “paddy,” which appeared

once in said story. The reader feels this word is “oppressive and derogatory regarding Irish descent.” It was not the intention of the Other Press (nor the writer, I assume) to oppress or degrade people of Irish descent.

However, we do apologize to anyone who may have been offended. Luckily, the many

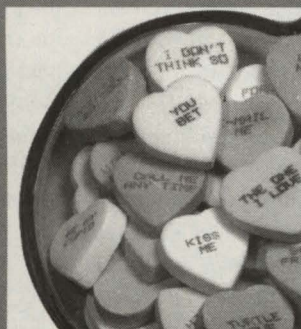
people of Irish descent on our staff (myself included) were not slighted by the use of this word. Which is good, because we have nothing but the utmost respect for ourselves, and would hate to insult us. (Plus, we always bring the best whiskey to the staff parties.)

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## Rotating Strike Hits Douglas, Again

Students Suggest Union and College Sit on Finger and Rotate

Brandon Ferguson, News Editor



Brent Morley

Since we last spoke, Douglas College has been bothered by two more strike days and a reading break-even—three mildly appreciated strike days off, traded for three desperately needed days of reading back on.

Mediation between the two sides—the BCGEU and Douglas College—broke off on January 19 after three days at the table. Despite the threat of a full strike, the union has continued its rotation of daily strikes that target BCIT, Kwantlen College, Northern Lights College, and Douglas.

Losing the semester remains of utmost concern to everyone involved, supposedly, so it was only logical to take back the precious gift of free time.

“The decision to cancel reading break was made last Monday, along with the decision also to use the college professional development day to hold classes,” Brad Barber, director of the communications and marketing office, said. “It was arrived at out of serious concern that if the strike continues, students will need to make up a number of days, and this was the college’s first opportunity to do that.

“It may be necessary to extend the semester as well, or postpone the final exam period.”

So far, job action has affected a Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of classes. Any decision to extend the semester would have to come from the faculty deans and administrators, depending on whether enough course material has been covered. So act smart in class, everyone. Don’t give the powers that be a reason to believe you aren’t as smart as you play you are.

The union has been without a contract since July 1, 2002, when they were forced a zero-percent wage increase mandate by the BC Liberal government. Hospital staff and nursing unions were forced into similar agreements as part of the Liberal agenda to copy Alberta’s model of provincial debt recovery.

With the zero mandate coming to a close on June 30, 2005, Barber sees hope for a new deal to be reached.

“If the union comes back to the table, the three-year term will be finished this June and we can be looking at a new contract and begin talks afresh,” he said.

“Basically, we need to get back to the table and start exploring some options.”

Although talks have broken off, there are some positive signs that this pissing contest won’t turn into the wind and wind up costing us our semester. For one, mediator Debbie Cameron has been called in from the Labour Relations Board. For two, discussions so far have been very adult—none of the propose/counter-propose bullshit we see with my only decent reference point, the NHL strike. When the college and union are talking, they’re actually talking about making sacrifices to find the best possible deal.

“Labour Minister Graham Bruce says he hopes we can reach an agreement at the bargaining table, but his government has given us nothing to negotiate,” George Heyman, president of the BCGEU, said. “Our members deserve the same opportunity as college administrators to reach a fair wage settlement.”

The last shot is in reference to the double-digit pay raises some Douglas College administrators have received while this zero mandate has been in place,

a favourite rallying cry of the union. A top-ten list put out by the BCGEU shows two Douglas administrators—Myrna Popove and Albert Atkinson—receiving salary increases of 32.2 and 22.5 percent respectively, good enough for third and seventh spots on the list.

As this shite goes on and on, please remember to care about everyone but yourself. This means: no crossing the picket line (unlike some Other Press board members whose names rhyme with KK, Fairy, Spatula, and A Panda); no complaints about possibly losing your semester (you selfish prick—think of the people already working and making more money than you, who want to make even more money than you—prick); and for the love of God (or whomever), there will be absolutely no ironic student protests held in the form of a pickup ball-hockey game in the concourse the next time the rotating strike hits...at 1pm...we still need another goalie. I’ll stand for none of it, people!



# Same-sex Marriage Bill Debuts

Legislation would extend marriage to same-sex couples, while respecting religious freedoms: Attorney General

Megan Thomas, CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief



OTTAWA (CUP)—The long-awaited federal same-sex marriage bill was introduced in the House of Commons February 1, the second day of parliamentary proceedings for the current session.

Irwin Cotler, minister of justice and attorney general of Canada, brought the civil marriage bill before the House, saying it will extend the legal reach of marriage to same-sex couples, while still respecting religious freedoms.

Cotler said he is aware some Canadians are still struggling with the idea of same-sex marriage, but he is confident "Canada is a land built on a tradition of tolerance and respect."

"Extending civil marriage to same-sex couples does not take away the rights of any others, nor does it relate to religious marriage," Cotler said, urging members of Parliament to support the bill.

Cotler said outside the House he was "very moved" to put same-sex marriage on the agenda.

The same-sex marriage bill is based on proposed legislation drawn up by the Supreme Court of Canada and looks to amend eight existing bills, ranging from the Divorce Act to the Income Tax Act. If the bill is passed, the amendments will ensure same-sex couples who marry are recognized as equal in all facets of marriage.

With the tabling of the legislation, attention now turns to whether the bill will pass when members of Parliament vote on it.

New Democrat Leader Jack Layton said he is still combing through the details of the bill, but said so far he is pleased with the issues it addresses. He said he

expects his whole caucus to vote in favour.

Layton blamed what he called wavering Liberal MPs for the uncertainty over whether the bill will pass.

Gary Goodyear, Conservative MP for Cambridge, Ontario, told reporters outside the House he has grave concerns about the introduction of the bill. He held up a folder he said was full of emails from his constituents who oppose same-sex marriage.

He said he worries the rights of Canadians to express opposition to the bill have been ignored. He also accused the Liberals of using the issue of same-sex marriage to hide an "agenda-less, dithering government."

The tabling of the bill comes after much public sparring between Conservative Leader Stephen Harper and Prime Minister Paul Martin. At one point Martin said that, if necessary, he would take the issue to the polls for the public to decide.

Layton said the bill concerns rights protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and should be decided on by Parliament.

"You should never put the human rights of a minority to referendum," said Layton.

Cotler said right now the government expects normal legislative procedure will be followed for the bill. This means a debate on the basic principles of the bill will take place at second reading and then it will be put to a vote.

Should it pass, the bill will go to a committee to be tweaked before the House and the Senate sign off on it.

# NDP Would Freeze BC Tuition if

## Elected, Leader Says

Party also plans to scrap \$6 training wage

Matt Hayles, *The Ubysey* (University of British Columbia)

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Tuition fees across British Columbia would be frozen immediately in the case of a New Democrat win in the May provincial election, party leader Carole James says.

James spoke about the NDP's platform when she paid a visit to the University of BC on January 26.

She said an NDP government would freeze tuition for the 2005–2006 school year and increase funding to universities and colleges.

James also discussed the issue of inflation, saying the proposed funding would account for increases in the cost of living.

"We've said that we're actually includ-

James also had harsh words for the BC Liberal government.

"We have right now one of the most extreme governments we've ever seen in British Columbia's history."

She criticized Premier Gordon Campbell's party for privatizing public services, and committed an NDP government to making BC Ferries a crown corporation again.

"This is a government that is selling off what belongs to us as British Columbians," she said. "We've been very clear that privatization will end under New Democrats."

But conservative voices in the audience were skeptical.



ing the rate of inflation to all colleges and universities as part of a comprehensive plan," she said.

James, who does not have a university degree, spent the week discussing her party's proposed policies at post-secondary institutions around the province.

"We have made some commitments already," she said, adding the party's full platform will be unavailable until April.

Beyond the university realm, James mentioned the NDP's plan to eliminate the \$6 so-called training wage.

"The BC Business Council, when I met with them, was very clear that the \$6 training wage isn't being used and hasn't created one job in British Columbia. It's an insult to our first-time workers and we need to eliminate it."

"Carole James's continual denials that she is not in bed with big labour in BC do not fool anyone. And voters in this province are going to wise up to her deep ties to Jim Sinclair before the election is over," said Joel McLaughlin, a member of UBC's Young Conservatives, referring to the president of the BC Federation of Labour.

Sinclair himself has commented on the Federation's support for the New Democrats. In a letter to the *Province* that appeared on February 12, he wrote: "The results are clear—in the Ipsos-Reid poll cited by the *Province*, a majority of decided union voters support the NDP. Far from distancing ourselves from the NDP, we are working hard for its renewal."



# STOLEN

## CAR SHOW



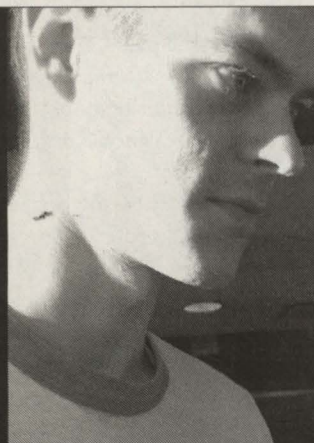
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## The Declaration of Belligerence: A Call for "Ballantine's Day"

The Way Things Sometimes Are



CF Miley,  
Opinions Editor

### The Declaration of Belligerence

1) Having put up with all the lovey-doveyness of Valentine's Day, We, the Bitter, shall imbibe Ballantine's Whiskey until totally freaking smashed each February 15 (which shall henceforth be known as, "Ballantine's Day"). We shall then stumble the streets looking for happy couples to "smack the shit out of" on sheer principle. The couples must accept our drunken smacking, without complaint or objection, because they are in love and we are not, and therefore, they owe us something.

2) Having smacked no fewer than two couples silly, We, the Bitter, shall return home, listen to all three volumes of *The Magnetic Fields*, *69 Love Songs*, chain-smoke an entire deck of cigarettes, and cry. More Ballantine's Whiskey shall be consumed during this time.

3) Breakfast, 9-10 am.

4) Having drunk, smacked, cried, and eaten, We, the Bitter, shall forthwith commence with the calling of ex-lovers. We shall initially admit our past misdeeds, accepting responsibility for "why everything went so terribly wrong," all the while plotting to get them over for a Booty Call. If a) our drunkenness, b) our shallow attempt to find solace in meaningless sex, or c) the restraining order, are mentioned, We, the Bitter, shall yell incoherently until such time as we are hung up on. We shall then proceed with calling back every 30 seconds until we pass out, phone in one hand, drink in the other.

5) Having awoken in black haze resembling the ninth rung of Purgatory, We, the Bitter, shall feel much shame and sob uncontrollably for a period of no less than 40 minutes. We shall then remember the two fingers' worth left in the bottle of Ballantine's and consume it. Having drunk all the whiskey, we shall then move on to whatever other booze is around, probably Peach Schnapps.

6) Bathroom break and time for personal reflection, 1-3:30ish pm.

7) Having recharged our batteries and booze supply, We, the Bitter, shall tear apart the house looking for photos and keepsakes that remind us of "happier times." We shall then use lit cigarettes and/or scissors to remove and replace people from said memories, as is our wont. We shall laugh hysterically and dia-

bolically while replacing "their" faces with the ass of a baboon.

8) Having reached the end of our ropes, We, the Bitter, shall find a mirror, stare into it, and berate ourselves for a while. We shall remember only our trespasses during this time, failing to forgive those who trespass against us. It is, after all, our day, and We, the Bitter, find this combination of self-loathing and hate strangely soothing.

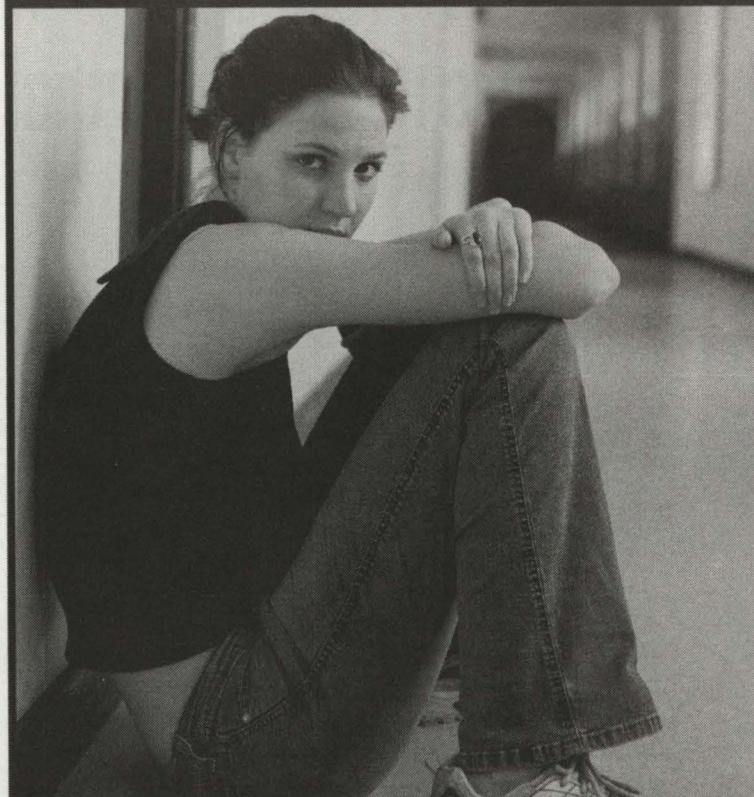
9) Having come to a Zen-like acceptance that it is our fate to be alone, We, the Bitter, shall collapse on a couch and unbutton the top button of our pants. We shall then plug in a Hugh Grant movie, likely *About a Boy*, or *Four Weddings and a*

*Funeral*, and cry again. We will pass out just before it ends, dreaming about flying and/or unicorns, having purged our repressed desires for love for yet another year.

We, the Bitter, feel that these nine things are owed us. We feel that there needs to be a day for those who need it most, namely us. We believe that, although all people may be created equal, all people do not have equal footing on the path of life. We are bitter, and on Ballantine's Day, we shall celebrate our bitterness, once and for all.

## You are not alone

The Students' Union's Pride Collective provides resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students at the college. The Collective meets Thursdays at 3:00 in room 328 in the students' union building at the New Westminster Campus. All lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered, questioning and allied students are welcome.



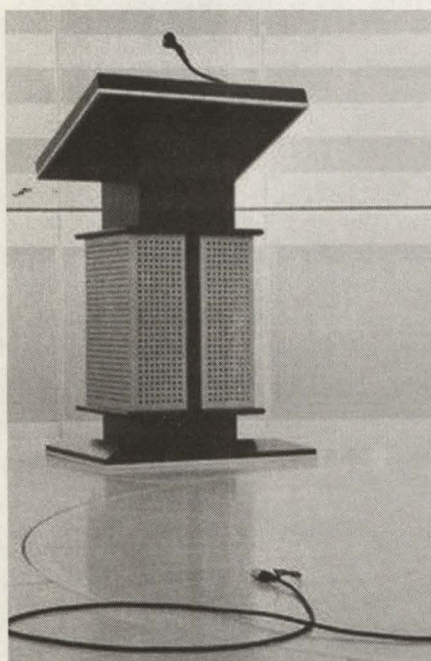
**Douglas Students' Union**  
Canadian Federation of Students Local 18





# Free Speech for Me, Not for Thee

Joel McLaughlin, OP Contributor



As Canadians, we pride ourselves on tolerance, diversity, and respect for the beliefs of others. As post-secondary students, we like to encourage debate on political, social, economic, academic, and scientific issues. In our classes, we are encouraged to think

critically, assess all perspectives on an issue, and argue with logic and facts. Supposedly, alternative viewpoints and minority arguments are celebrated and welcomed as part of a civil society. The right to free speech is considered an invaluable tool for minorities to ensure that the tyranny of the majority is not able to drown out their competing views. Ironically, it is within university environments that celebration of intellectual diversity and protection of free speech is most flagrantly violated today.

From liberal students to ultra-liberal faculty, and extremely liberal campus media, it is readily apparent that liberalism is, in Karl Marx's terminology, the dominant ideological superstructure on North American campuses. So how does this overwhelmingly liberal environment treat alternative views?

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has attracted many speakers on both sides to various local campuses like UBC, SFU, and Langara, among others. On more than one memorable occasion, protestors not only demonstrated outside of pro-Israel events, but also proceeded to disrupt speeches and shout over speakers

who were attempting to answer questions. If a bunch of conservative students shouted down a Palestinian speaker in an attempt to stop his or her speech or answer to a question, you can be sure that the uproar would be epic. Does a pro-Israeli speaker not have the same right as anyone else to speak, regardless of how much some may disagree with the substance of the argument?

Consider also the ongoing debate over the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP), which campaigns against abortion by comparing the killing of fetuses to the Holocaust and other genocides. The comparison may indeed be without merit, but that is not the issue here. A concerted attempt is being made to limit the terms of debate around what is clearly an impassioned and important issue. To that end, is any pro-life argument acceptable to pro-choice groups? If pro-lifers dropped the Holocaust analogy and made a case against abortion based on other reasons would some pro-choice students stop verbally intimidating pro-life demonstrators?

At a Canadian Federation of Students rally last February, counter-demonstrators were verbally and physically intimidated

by some participants. Even protest organizers initially attempted to keep the peaceful counter-demonstrators off the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery, a public space.

To be sure, there are certain arguments that we can all more or less agree should not be acceptable in the public sphere. Racist arguments, for example, are rightly considered unacceptable at a classroom or campus event. But a serious problem arises when individuals and groups attempt to conflate unacceptable lines of reasoning with clearly legitimate arguments, such as the case for private health care or Israel's security barrier.

Campuses should exemplify the kind of deliberation we want to see in society. When dissent from the prevailing opinion is either overtly or subconsciously crushed, we should question the motives behind such actions. Could the Left be afraid that exposing students to alternative views threatens their vice grip on campuses? The reaction to this paper should be a good litmus test for the quality of intellectual diversity on our campuses.

# Justin Ball is not Neanderthal Bob

Neanderthal Bob, OP Contributor

Date: 19-01-05

FAO: The Editor, OP [then to be passed on to the Opinions Editor, who shall print it in a timely-ish manner—Ed.]

Re: Cancelled "Welcome Back" Events

Dear Ed,

Returning to Douglas, I was really looking forward to some of the Student Union-hosted social events.

On campus and in class, I soon realized many students are still left-wing, hugging trees, and supporting unions blindly—you catch my drift.

I went along to the first two posted events, a BBQ and an '80s breakfast—both cancelled with little or no warning. I phoned Wednesday (19-01-05) to make sure the last of these events, the pub night, hadn't been cancelled. On the Student Union telephone was a message stating, in part, how the Union supports the BCGEU strikers. As a fee-paying stu-

dent, I'm part of that union, and I sure didn't decide to support them, or oppose them, or anything actually. I suppose I *should* be more ethically and politically "aware."

Now, I freely admit I am a shallow male: mostly my mind thinks about cheer and beer, mammaries and motorcycles, steaks and sexy Swedish twins, and, on occasion, the use of metaphors in early Elizabethan sonnets. However, all I can think of is that the BCGEU strikers, however noble their struggle, **robbed me of free food, cheap beer, and the chance to do some schmoozing!** Could your readers suggest how I might reconcile these feelings?

Sign me,

Neanderthal Bob

Dear Neanderthal,  
Due to your unintentional misunderstanding,

ing of just how much "Reader Response" we get here at the Other Press, I thought I'd take the time to respond to your concerns personally.

Firstly, tough break on the name. Seriously, I'd think about ponying up the 50 bucks for a name change if I were you. However, as I am currently going by "CF," you can probably take any name advice I offer with a grain of salt.

Secondly, although the Pancake Breakfast wasn't on my personal itinerary—it conflicted with my daily two-hour dose of *Dawson's Creek* reruns on TBS, 7-9am, weekdays—I understand your pain and anger. Free pancakes are not a thing to be trifled with. As for the BBQ, well, I must admit that I didn't even know it was cancelled. My bad.

Lastly, we have all been affected by the strike. I'm currently more pissed off about the loss of Reading Break than I am about the loss of DSU-sponsored events,

but, hey, that's just me. In your defense, Neanderthal, I believe you composed your letter prior to the announcement of the cancellation of Reading Break, so I will afford you a modicum of slack. But remember, as you stated, we are members of the DSU—brothers and sisters, I believe they call it in the union vernacular—and so I would hope that we might look to support the BCGEU in their attempt to finally get a fair contract for the years to come. Unions are a necessary evil in a capitalist society; without them, too many people would still be working without benefits, adequate pay, and any semblance of job security. If you'll excuse me, there's a weeping willow across the way that looks like it could really use a hug.

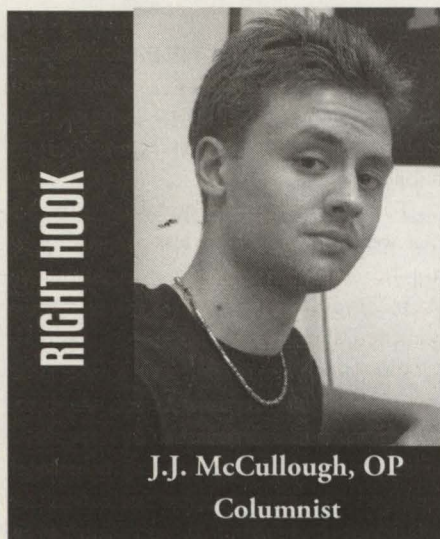
Yours in Solidarity,

CF Miley, Ed.



# FOX News: The Latest Liberal Bogeyman

RIGHT HOOK



J.J. McCullough, OP  
Columnist

If you listen to today's liberal columnists and pundits, you'd think watching FOX News is akin to sitting down for tea with Joseph Goebbels. Its programming is described as "propaganda," its commentators are "cruel" and "hateful," and most terrifying of all, the programming is said to suffer from a "conservative bias." Left-wingers just can't stop hand wringing over FOX News. To them it's a joke, an annoyance, and the antichrist, all at once.

Needless to say, I was delighted when Shaw cable finally gave me a chance to watch the station that has provided so much heartache to my friends on the left. I've been a loyal viewer for about a month, and I must say overall I'm a tad disappointed. I was promised a radical network whose programming was so terrifyingly partisan that even glancing upon it would make me spontaneously break into a *Zieg Heil* to Führer Bush. The reality is much less exciting. FOX does the sports, FOX does the weather, FOX does the Michael Jackson trial, and yes, FOX does opinionated debate shows. Many of these debate shows, such as the *O'Reilly Factor*, *On the Record*, and *Hannity and Combs* have conservative hosts, but I hardly find this shocking. Opinionated hosts provide the basis for partisan clashes with their guests. Does the bickering get shallow and petty at times? Sure. But it's also tremendously entertaining and high-spirited. Likewise, no one can argue shows like the *O'Reilly Factor* are one-sided. I've actually found that, along with an endless parade of democratic and liberal pundits, the station is more open to airing the views of extreme leftists, unlike some of the other networks who apparently are more inclined to keep such potential embarrassments in the closet.

Along with the debate shows, left-wing critics also blast the network's reporting as being rightward biased. If FOX's reporting does have a conservative bias, its greatest strength is making the viewer realize just how liberally biased most of the other networks are. For example, while the other networks frequently run scare stories about terrorist bombings in Iraq, FOX News is unique in that it will actually provide follow-ups, and announce when the perpetrators of such attacks have been captured. A small detail perhaps, but that kind of reporting can make the difference between whether you see the war as an unwinnable quagmire or a battle of slow but steady progress.

Another unique Foxism is the network's willingness to refer to Islamic extremists who murder innocent civilians as "terrorists." For some reason this term became unfashionable in most of the mainstream media, who now refer to such killers as "militants" or "resistance fighters." For me, this is more of a common-sense bias than a conservative

one.

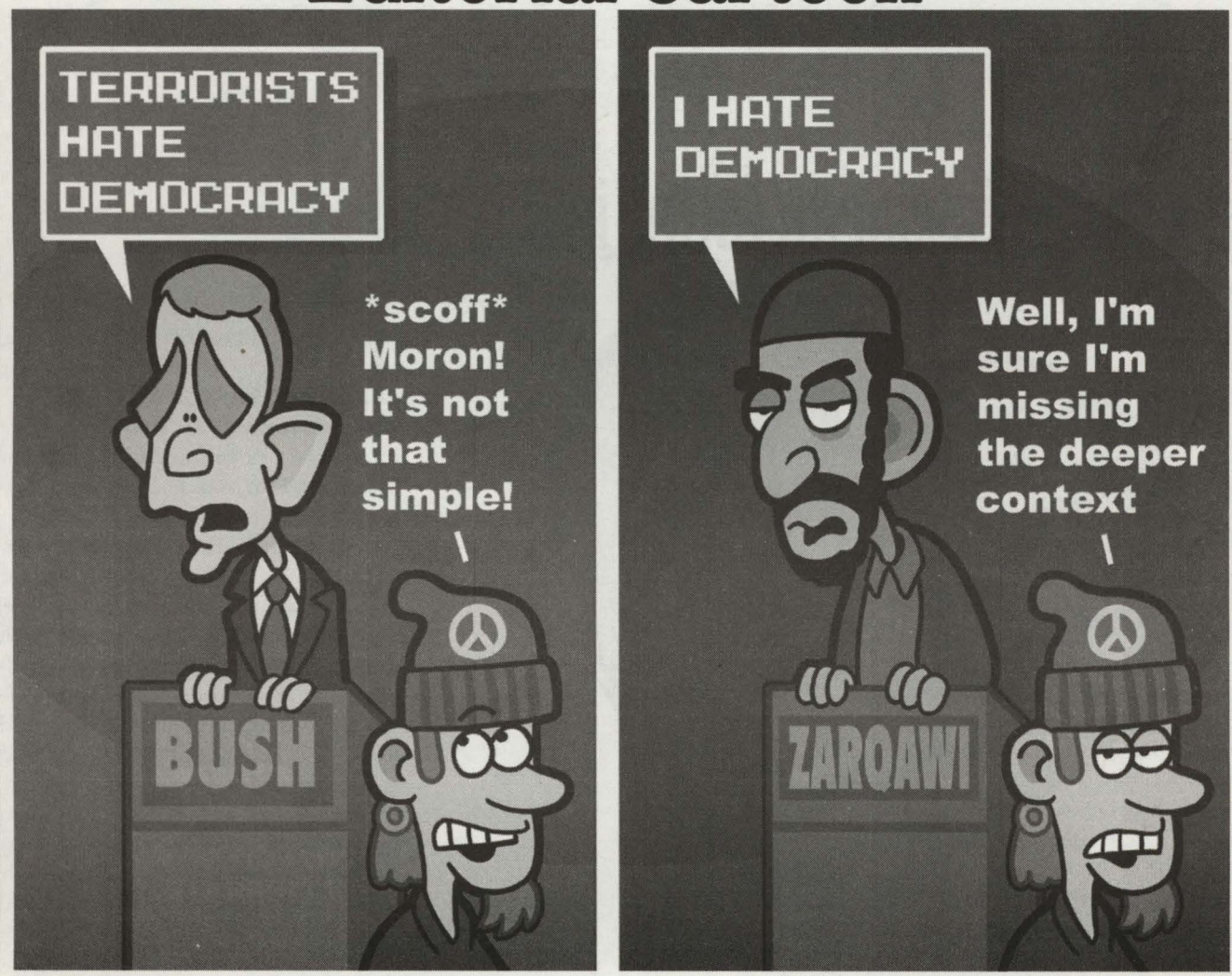
Overall, I fail to see how FOX News is fundamentally different from most other cable news networks. Ninety percent of their reporting is the same bland, superficial stuff you see anywhere else. What FOX does have, however, is a unique spirit and energy not seen on most other networks. While they don't always live up to their lofty principles in practice, their motivations are admirable.

Just comparing FOX's slogan to the slogans of some of the other stations is in itself revealing. FOX says, "We report, you decide," encouraging viewers to draw their own conclusions based on what they see. Compare that to CNN's slogan, "The most trusted name in news," or CBC's slogan "Trusted, connected, Canadian." Both of these other catch phrases play up the concept of trust, which indicates the job of the viewer is simply one of blind faith in the network's interpretation of the news. This is in turn promoted through the phony neutrality that CBC and CNN anchors embrace, as they try to hide their own biases, leading to a much more

underhanded form of media manipulation.

FOX's anchors may be brash and opinionated, but at least they openly invite conflict, rather than pretending to be above it. I think that this is the crux of the reason why FOX is so hated by the left. By showing that there is "another way" to present the news, they have made a direct accusation on the integrity of the rest of the mainstream networks. Liberal-types love to criticize the media, which is never deemed to be left wing *enough*. Many trees have fallen to produce liberal books about how the media fueled the Gulf War, or marginalized the plight of the third world, yadda yadda yadda. The tables have now been turned, however, and conservatives are now the leading critics of the mainstream media, whose liberal biases have gone unquestioned for generations. FOX News is not the magic cure to fix all that is wrong in the modern news media, but it is certainly a step in the right direction. In Canada, its presence is long overdue.

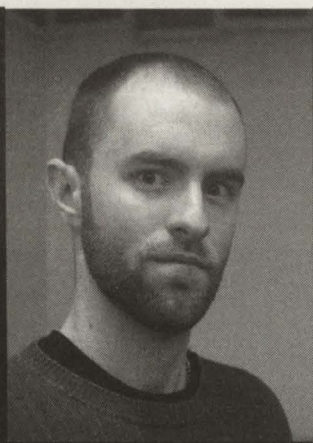
## Editorial Cartoon





# All You Need is Love

LEFT FIELD



Iain Reeve, OP Columnist

*"I fear if we do this [same-sex marriage], the next thing on the Liberal agenda will be polygamy and who knows what else,"*  
—Stephen Harper

On the topic of Valentine's Day and love, I want to write about an important matter. It is my sincere hope that by next Valentine's our Canadian parliament will have passed bill C-38, legalizing gay marriage. In the past week, I have watched with pride as our government has taken the same step most other progressive nations of the world have made by proposing said legislation, despite it being

met with a fair degree of opposition. Polls tell us that both Canadians and parliamentarians are split on the issue. This is something I just don't understand. Our country has a powerful tradition of respecting the rights and beliefs of all Canadians, and of being more than willing to allow others to have their beliefs as long as we can have ours. So why is this a sticky issue? One may, perhaps, need look no further than the intolerance, fear, and hate-mongering disguised as self-defense being spread by the religious right, and its proponents in parliament.

All you need to do to see this is read the quote at the beginning of this article, or perhaps visit the website of a prominent religious pressure group such as Focus on the Family. If you visit their website's section on "protecting traditional marriage," you encounter a section where they claim they are not discriminating against gays, followed by a section detailing how gay couples are inferior in the process of raising children (along with the claim that studies which say otherwise are inherently flawed). This site is not unique and is indicative of most other right-wing religious opinions.

I think it is folly for the members of the religious right to impose their views on modern Canadian society and make

attempts to restrict others' rights. Canada is a society that is becoming more and more secular as people realize the value of letting anyone carry whatever beliefs—religious or otherwise—they wish, as long as they do not infringe upon others' beliefs. In the not-too-distant future, the extreme members of many religions who are not willing to let others live their lives (and who insist that it is somehow detrimental to their faith if others are granted reasonable rights) may find themselves fighting with the majority of Canadians to maintain their right to carry out their

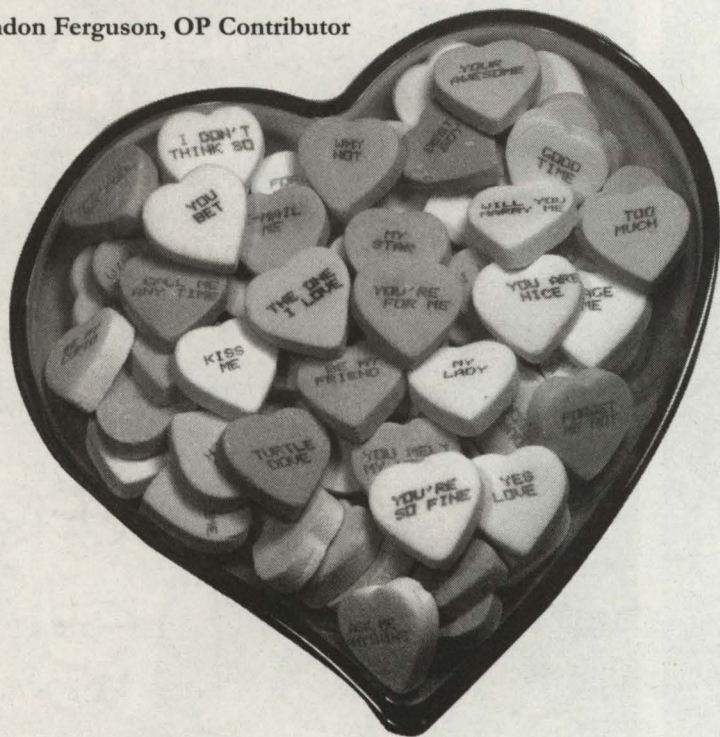
unpopular practices. As the extreme religious right becomes a smaller minority, it may be smart for them to start making concessions. Otherwise, the legislators of the future may not be so willing to go easy on an institution that in the past has stood for plain and simple intolerance and dogma.

Personally, I would rather share my definition of marriage with two loving people who happen to be of the same sex than any man and women who can't see past their own beliefs and let others be happy.



# Today, My Favourite Letter is X

Brandon Ferguson, OP Contributor



I know that I haven't called in a while, or driven by in the wee hours of the night to silently wave to your window and taunt your fat father, but I want to wish you ex-girlfriends a very happy Valentine's Day. You deserve it for bringing me to this point.

When I think back about the tenderness we've shared, I get warm chills. The first time we held hands under the table, the first time we kissed, the first time I felt safe in your eyes, the first time you swallowed—it all opened my heart so wide you could land a plane here. You turned this callous little heart into a functioning and feeling device.

Remember the time I filled your room with pink, red, and white helium balloons attached to poems, roses, and candy? It felt good to plan that out and make you

happy. Remember taking a bottle of tequila to the parking lot of that insane asylum and dancing like loonies under a full moon? We spun so much I swear we took orbit. I know that I felt the stars align for us that night.

I'm sorry for the times I made you cry. That was never intentional. Sometimes I get so wrapped up in my own life that I forget how my actions impact yours. I didn't mean to be late that day. I'm sorry I had to work on our anniversary. And if I'd known your sister was off limits, believe me, baby, I would never have been so careless in covering it up.

I hope you're happy now. It's all I really wanted for you in the first place. In many ways, that's why we had to part. You had become so strong and yet so dependant. I loved you for your strength and



reveled in your dependence on my love. But sometimes that's not enough, not nearly enough. It's not a reason to continue. A plateau is not a place I ever want to strive for—nor do you, I suspect. You deserve better; you deserved better than I could ever give you.

When we got together, ex-girlfriends, you were a mess. An adorable, wonderful, kind-hearted mess who needed something from me just as I needed something from you. Love. Whenever I'm hanging out with the boys, I admit that I'll sometimes reduce you to the term "project." I'm sorry for that, but we both were works in progress. Everyone is, I think, but nobody wants to admit it. In your clutch, laying out our fears on a couch like cards on a table, we pushed each other to greater heights. And though we won't get to push each other from here on out, and though we won't get to be there for every success and failure, and though we won't get to make beautiful babies to call our own, I'm glad that we've left each other in a position to achieve. And I'll be there somewhere in your heart when you do, because you've already been saved a front-row seat in mine.

We're all just a bunch of hormonal weirdos dancing wildly through this life, trying to step our way towards happiness and recover from the trips. Neurotic, jealous, paranoid, hypersensitive, dangerously insensitive, deliriously hopeful and happily so—there's no one word for it. But for all the follies of this hopeful pursuit, for all the foibles of our funny lives, it was a blessed relief whenever I could shut out the world and just look into your eyes.

During those times, it was always about you. Love is such a selfless thing. I almost forgot who I was; I was so wrapped up in you, and you in me.

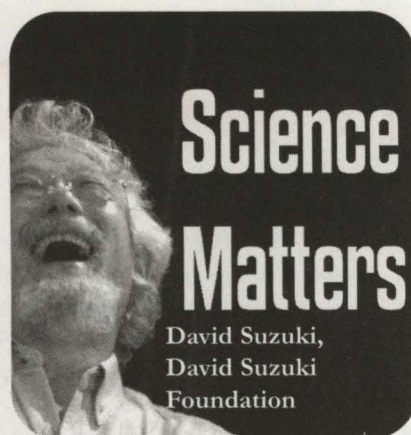
I'm doing really well now, and you'd be happy to see the progress I've made. I hear that you've got a good job now, some travel experience, and a healthy outlook on life. I always thought you could win a Nobel Prize if you wanted, and now you're on your way towards whatever heights you want to reach. To have spent even a moment with you makes it all worthwhile. You've been a beautiful blip on my radar, and wherever I may land, I'll owe a bit of it to you.

We can't take back the things we said in the heat of the moment, so I won't take back the things I said in the heat of love either. I did love you, and so I still will. I found you beautiful then, and still do. Words are emotions spoken; I want you to know that I mean them all as much today as I did then. Especially on Valentine's Day. It's such a silly holiday, really. But you can't be silly without being happy, and I don't think you can be completely happy without love.

Happy Valentines Day ex-girlfriends. Thanks for the love. It means a lot to me.

Sincerely,

The Ex



## Tsunami Relief Shows Humanity's Capacity to Give

When a wall of water crashed across the shorelines of several Asian countries on December 26, it was a powerful reminder of just how vulnerable humanity can be to the forces of nature—especially people living in developing countries.

Dramatic and devastating, the tsunami left at least 150,000 dead, millions homeless, and caused billions of dollars in damage. Fortunately, the world has responded with an enormous outpouring of support. Within days of the disaster, politicians in developed countries began to announce aid packages. Donations from the public have been even more remarkable. In fact, some aid agencies have even stopped accepting relief money specifically for the tsunami disaster because they simply don't have the capacity to spend it on the ground in the afflicted countries.

But in all our efforts to bring some

hope to those suffering, we mustn't forget that the developing world needs our help every day. Those living in poorer countries do not often have access to the services and infrastructure that we take for granted. At the best of times they may not have healthy food, medical services, clean water, or sanitation. In times of crisis, what little these countries have to protect their citizens can easily be overwhelmed.

We also must not forget that the tsunami isn't the only humanitarian crisis facing the developing world today. Last year, more than 1.5 million Africans died from AIDS. Every year, more than two million people die from tuberculosis and one million people die from malaria—most of them in developing countries. These diseases are part of the reason why nearly one-fifth of children born in sub-Saharan Africa will not live past the age of five.

The tsunami has also taken the spotlight off other long-suffering regions, such as Sudan and Uganda. Millions of refugees in these areas are still living in squalid camps. Such camps are breeding grounds for the same diseases that experts are concerned could become rampant in areas affected by the tsunami because of a lack of sanitation.

None of this is to say that countries suffering in the wake of the tsunami don't need our help—they do. But the tsunami was really a sobering reality check. Our world is unpredictable and disaster could strike any time. When it does, it often hurts poorer regions the most. Yet, one

glance at the list of casualties from the tsunami and it becomes clear that the disaster's reach goes far beyond Asia. Canadians, Swedes, Americans, and those of many other nationalities also died. Our world has really become a much smaller place.

Since the disaster, there have been calls for a better tsunami early-warning system. That seems obvious. But warnings are only useful if they are heeded. And we are getting all sorts of warnings about the future that we continue to ignore. We were told, for example, that coral reefs and mangrove forests helped buffer coastlines from damaging waves. Yet many such ecosystems in the Indian Ocean were lost to development in recent years—ecosystems that may have offered some protection to some areas from the tsunami.

Scientists are also continuing to warn us about the effects of climate change—especially on developing nations that lack the infrastructure to respond to more frequent severe weather events, rising sea levels, and changing precipitation patterns that a warming world is expected to bring.

Unfortunately, while the developed world's response to the tsunami disaster has been heartening, our response to climate change has been tepid at best. It's not that humanity lacks the capacity to respond. Obviously, judging from recent events, humanity's capacity for compassion can be profound. It's just unfortunate that it takes a tsunami to trigger it.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org).





# Tsunami Benefit Rocks GM Place

Jan 29, GM Place, Vancouver, BC  
Trevor Hargreaves, OP Contributor  
Photos by Angela Blattmann

Things began with a decidedly mediocre set by Delerium. One look at the pedigree of the evening's line-up and it was pretty obvious that this band was only playing because their label

organized the benefit. Sarah McLachlan joined them early on to add some star appeal, but once she left, the performance went quickly downhill. Between the dated orchestral-techno and vocalist Kristy Thirsk's droning vocals, I found myself wishing I needed a restroom break. Between bands, staple Canadian funny-men Rick Mercer and Brent Butt aptly assumed MC duties.

"As you know, we are all here tonight for a very good cause," said Mercer with faux seriousness. "We are here to raise money for the Vancouver Canucks".

The first dose of raw talent hit the stage when Chantal Kreviazuk kicked into her stellar performance. She started off with a solid rendition of





owed by a beautifully delivered ver-  
e." While the song has never been  
a single, thematically, it was very  
as it's about tragedy on the news.  
ayed an equally solid version of "In  
efore her illustrious husband (Our  
frontman Raine Maida) joined her  
aida picked up an acoustic guitar  
lone stool with a decidedly Dylan-  
out him. He proceeded to launch  
of benefit-deserving covers. First  
2 classic "Running To Stand Still"  
y the teary-eyed Simon and  
number "Bridge Over Troubled  
finished up with a stripped-down  
he Our Lady Peace hit "Innocent"  
d by Chantal's vocals and piano. I  
preferred a full-blown rendition of

pretentiousness of Maida's set dissi-  
41 hit the stage. This was the first  
evening to really play their heart  
of talking in hushed tones and  
benefit-worthy personas. They got  
rk with blazing versions of "Fat  
Hell Song" and a new tune called  
To Blame." The boys were truly in  
at one point, unflappable frontman  
ibley even changed into an Elvis  
d sung a punked-up version of the  
Big E classic "That's All  
Right Momma." They also

took time out  
to eloquently  
comment on  
how "George  
W. Bush is a  
Moron" before play-  
ing the song of the same  
name. Wow...this benefit  
has guts!

Before anyone had time to  
over from the crazy Sum41 set, sud-  
oin Williams was on stage going  
ly cow, Mork from Ork in  
"Canada without hockey is like  
thout Nukes, now all you have is  
curling," he wisecracked. After  
utes of rapid-fire hilarity, Williams  
the next band by saying "And now,  
ge boy's dream...The Barenaked

guys hit the stage to mass crowd  
any band appealed to the broad  
c of concertgoers in the audience,  
The crowd got to their feet and  
ag to a collection of hits including  
en Done," "This Old Apartment,"



"If I had a Million Dollars," and "Pinch Me."  
Their music isn't the most challenging, but it  
makes for a pretty fun live show.

Next up came Napanee's own Avril  
Lavigne. With her hair done up in '70s style  
Farrah Fassett tresses, she looked like a mini  
Charlie's Angel. I never noticed how tiny this  
gal is! When she walked on stage, she resem-  
bled a Chocolate Factory Oompa Loompa  
with a guitar. Her band seemed to tower sever-  
al feet above her! Regardless of size, she  
certainly can belt out the tunes. She got things  
going with "Sk8er Boi," "I'm With You," and a  
nicely delivered, stripped-down solo acoustic  
version of "Nobody's Home."

As the crew set up the stage for the  
impending Sarah McLachlan performance, a  
local choir called the Sarah McLachlan Musical  
Outreach Choir & Percussion Ensemble hit  
the stage. These local kids added a nice touch  
to the evening.

Soon Sarah herself hit the stage for mellow  
renditions of "Hold On" and "Fallen." Kristy  
Thirsk re-emerged from backstage to sing back  
up while fog machines filled the stage with  
eerie results. Barenaked bassist Jim Creegan  
appeared and joined in a stripped-down ver-  
sion of "Angel," and before I knew it, the set  
was finished. As is par for the course for any  
decent benefit, a collection of the evening's  
musicians hit the stage for a group version of  
Bob Dylan standard "I Shall Be Released,"  
eventually breaking into "Hey Jude." When all  
was said and done, over 3.6 million dollars was  
raised for OXFAM, War Child, and several  
other charities. And I got to see Sum41 do  
Elvis...what a night!





# Happy Valentine's Day

Amanda Aikman, Managing Editor

Ahh, Valentine's Day. The overpriced flowers and greeting cards, the velvet heart-shaped boxes of bonbons, the sound of future brides choking on diamond rings placed by unoriginal

boyfriends in the bottoms of champagne glasses—it really is a magical day. This year, instead of going for the razzle-dazzle factor by skywriting sweet nothings to your Valentine or finagling a reservation

at The Olive Garden, why not go for a classic? Take your boy toy or gal pal to a picture show. What could be more romantic than sitting in the dark next to that someone special. You reach for some popcorn and your hands accidentally touch...next thing you know you're headed up to lookout point together, or even better—prom!

Whether you're in the mood for sad, silly, scary, or sweet, there are loads of

great movies playing right now at a theatre near you. If you need a little help plotting your cinematic destination, take a look-see through the four film reviews in this copy of The Other Press. And, even if you don't have a Valentine, that doesn't mean you shouldn't hit the theatres on Feb 14, too. After all, why settle for arm candy when you can get one of those giant boxes of Milk Duds from the concession?

## Movie Reviews

### *Alone in the Dark*

Directed by Uwe Boll  
Starring Christian Slater, Tara Reid, and Stephen Dorff

Vince Yim, OP Contributor

Loosely based on the video game of the same name, *Alone in the Dark* takes paranormal investigator Edward Carnie (Christian Slater) on a journey to find the remnants of a lost civilization wiped out long ago. Humankind's tendency to tinker with the dangerous and unknown is prevalent as they toy with whatever wiped out the old civilization and is now threatening humanity. But it's up to Carnie, his former lover Aline Cedrac (Tara Reid), and the hotheaded military man Commander Burke (Stephen Dorff) to stop it.

By the time you read this, there is a good chance that the film has been mercifully yanked from theatres after an icy reception from both audiences and critics, garnering overwhelmingly negative reviews, and failing to crack the top-ten weekend box office. This should come as little surprise to most, given that the creative team behind this film was also behind another locally shot video-game adaptation, *House of the Dead*, which was also destroyed by both critics and audiences.

While viewing *Alone in the Dark*, any sort of hopes of improving on the filmmakers' previous effort are quickly dashed by the excruciatingly slow opening text crawl (like in *Star Wars*), which actually garnered cries from the audience of, "Hit the fast-forward button!" From there, the film is chaotic at best, featuring random spurts of action, visual effects, and stuff blowing up.

On the plus side, the visual effects are fairly well done, and over all, the film actually looks quite good. Sets are well designed, the monsters are quite real looking, and there is more than sufficient gore and violence to keep for the horror fans satisfied. Vancouver-based special effects artist Bill Terezakis (also known for his work on *Freddy vs. Jason* and *Blade: Trinity*)

gets a real workout here, showing off truly gruesome effects ranging from people getting their heads sliced open to people getting impaled. Incidentally, the filmmakers were originally shooting for a PG-13 rating. Evidently, that didn't quite happen.

On the downside, however, the film may have been better approached as a comedy, because the audience I previewed the film with was in hysterics throughout. Lines of dialogue and moments of scenery chewing evoke guffaws while a completely unmotivated love scene between the two stars had everybody howling. Audience



participation is encouraged and almost guaranteed.

This may not necessarily be a bad thing, as it seemed that everyone was entertained, albeit for the wrong reasons (i.e.: laughing at, rather than laughing with). *Alone in the Dark* would be best viewed as the type of movie you watch with your friends while drunk and heckling all the way through. As it is, by the time the ending credits rolled, the audience was cheering.

Film-wise, it's lacking, to a large degree. Entertainment wise, you'll automatically find something to enjoy in it—even if it is destined to be one of the worst movies of the year.

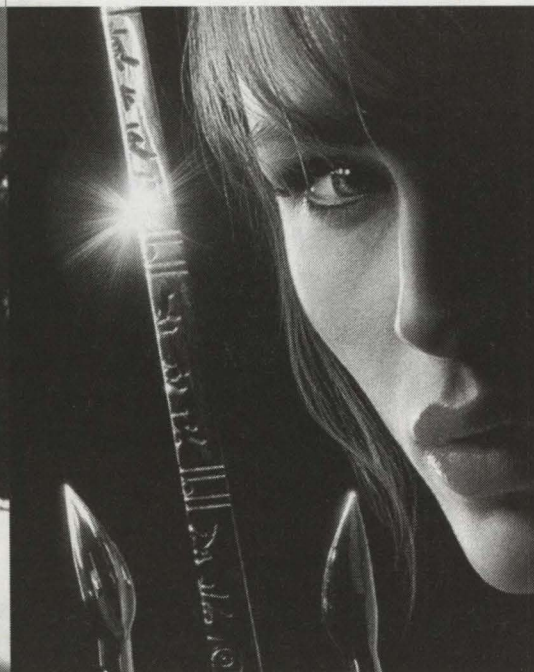
### *Elektra*

Directed by Rob Bowman  
Starring Jennifer Garner, Goran Visnjic, and Terrence Stamp

Vince Yim, OP Contributor

Sadly, you can't play "spot-the-location" when you start getting bored with this film.

Based on the Marvel comic books by Frank Miller, Vancouver-shot *Elektra* takes place where *Daredevil* left off: when Elektra was murdered but left hints towards her return. Having been revived through mysterious means, she resumes her training, becoming a deadly assassin and taking on top-dollar con-



tracts (typically high-powered criminals). But her latest assignment has her seriously doubting her profession and her refusal to carry it out has deadly consequences, for there is an even deadlier team of assassins now after her and her previous target.

The last few years have been huge for Marvel Comics, with most of their major properties seeing the film treatment. Among them are heavy hitters like *X-Men* and *Spider-Man*, as well as other contenders such as *The Hulk*, *The Punisher*, *Blade*, and *Daredevil*. These films have had varying level of success. *X-Men* and *Spider-Man* were the most

successful franchises, having garnered both critical and box-office acclaim. And then there are movies like *Elektra*.

While certainly not the worst comic-to-film adaptation by any means (that "honour" goes to either *Batman & Robin* or *Catwoman*), it is simply one of the more forgettable ones. Certainly, Jennifer Garner plays the role with a lot of stage presence and charisma and carries this film the best she can. But it's the material that's lacking.

Most other comic-book film characters have strong motivations to carry them through their plot. *Spider-Man*? His irresponsible actions led to the death of his uncle. *X-Men*? Fighting prejudice is their goal. *The Punisher*? His entire family was murdered by the mob. There isn't much that drives *Elektra*, save some abstract flashbacks that serve more to confuse us than to tell us anything.

And of course, there is the comic-book rogue's gallery that usually makes a film memorable. While this gives the VFX guys the chance to show off, it isn't enough. In this arena, *Elektra* appears to borrow much from the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* television series, where deaths were usually marked by disappearance in a puff of dust.

As an action film, *Elektra* is fairly weak. While the fight scenes are decently choreographed (also utilizing some of Vancouver's talent pool), there aren't enough of them to keep the average moviegoer interested throughout. Some could have made the same argument for Ang Lee's treatment of *The Hulk*, but much of *The Hulk* was focusing on character and plot. What does *Elektra* have? It briefly shows that the title character has obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) by having her count her footsteps and arrange the contents of a fruit basket and her toiletries in a very anal-retentive manner—and then doesn't mention it further.

If opening box-office receipts are an indicator, this film is destined to die a very quick death at the cinema.



## In Good Company

Directed by Paul Weitz

Starring Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace, and Scarlett Johansson  
Jared Majeski, *Intercamp* (Grant MacEwan College)

EDMONTON (CUP)—It's the old tale of a man falling in love with a woman who has an overprotective father, with a twist.

Dennis Quaid (*The Rookie*), Scarlett Johansson (*Lost in Translation*) and the lovable, skinny, dorky-yet-cool up-and-comer Topher Grace (*That '70s Show*) star in the Paul Weitz (*American Pie* trilogy) film, *In Good Company*. The film makes quirky use of combining love and inter-office politics.

Quaid plays Dan Foreman, a 51-year-old ad salesperson for a big-time American sports magazine. A multi-billionaire corporation has just purchased the magazine, and Carter Duryea (Grace), who is 26 years Foreman's junior, is sent in to take the helm of the magazine. Despite Duryea having to be the bearer of bad news (firing faithful magazine employees), zany office high jinks ensue.

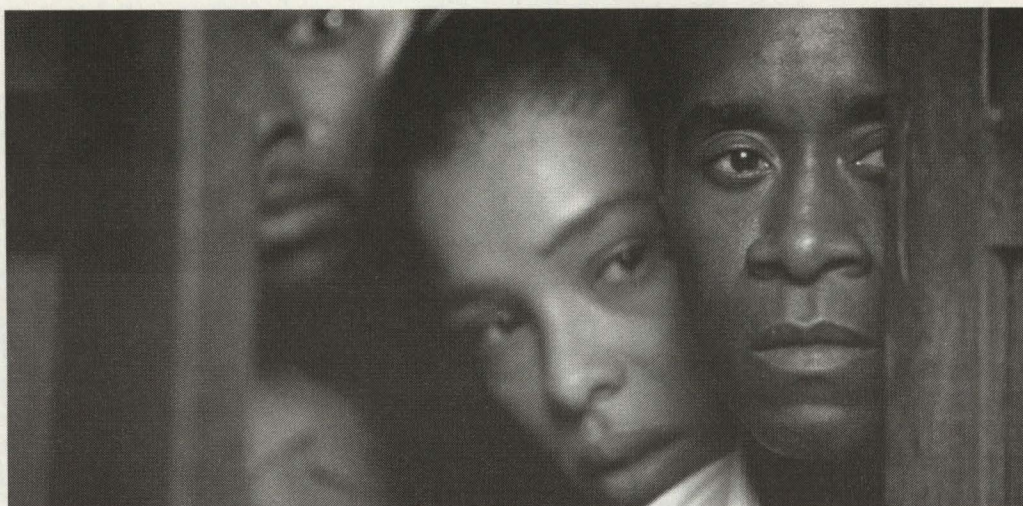


Marital troubles plague Duryea and eventually lead him to develop an away-from-the-office relationship with Foreman, as well as a relationship with one of his two daughters, Alex (Johansson). Before you know it, Duryea and Alex have started a secret relationship behind Foreman's back.

This film uses off-the-wall, sometimes offensive humour in a very tasteful way. Quaid's character has the most work in the film, having to be in a father role not only for his NYU-attending daughter, but also for his green boss. Despite being in a position of immense power, Duryea learns a lot about life and his new job from Foreman. Their professional relationship is as awkward and comedic as a junior-high prom.

As the film goes on, Duryea and Foreman begin to develop a father-son type relationship both at and away from the office. The movie could have been your typical romantic comedy, but putting it in an office setting makes for more conflict and humour. It isn't just about Duryea's relationship with Alex: it is about his relationship with Foreman, Alex's relationship with her father, and Foreman's relationship with his wife.

The acting in the film is stellar. Dennis Quaid, in usual Dennis-Quaid fashion, does an excellent job portraying an awkward father in an awkward relationship. The talented and button-cute Scarlett Johansson strays away from her roles in non-linear movies to take part in this comedy. Topher Grace has solidified himself in the movie world as not just a TV actor. He has taken on several roles in a very short time and has proven that he could be the next big thing in Hollywood.



## Hotel Rwanda

Directed by Terry George

Starring Don Cheadle, Nick Nolte, and Sophie Oknedo,

Misha Warbanski, *The Link* (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—A decade after the international community turned a blind eye to the genocide in Rwanda (where the Hutu majority slaughtered some 800,000 Tutsis over a period of 100 days) the blockbuster movie *Hotel Rwanda* has hit theatres.

"To make a movie about genocide is next to impossible," said Robert Harrison, vice-president of Amnesty International for French-speaking Canada, who introduced the press screening of *Hotel Rwanda* in Montréal.

And although the movie got off to a good start—landing the audience in downtown Kigali in the middle of the action while Hutu and Tutsi factions faced the upcoming deadline for a peace agreement, but violence continued to increase—I was still skeptical that a Hollywood flick would be able to accurately represent the magnitude of genocide and the politics surrounding it. In short, I was expecting another *Pearl Harbor*.

However, the cast and crew under director Terry George—who also collaborated on the screenplay with Keir Pearson—have succeeded in creating a top-notch movie. Based on real people and events, *Hotel Rwanda* follows hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle), who shelters more than 800 Tutsis, including his own family, in the four-star Kigali hotel, Mille Collines. Considered by his Tutsi neighbours and friends "the only Hutu they can trust," Rusesabagina risks his own life defending the "cockroaches"—as Hutu propaganda referred to Tutsis—from an otherwise certain death.

"It's a triumph," said Harrison. "[The movie] manages to be suspenseful and interesting—something that people will want to see—but is not too bloody, not too gory."

At some points in the movie, I wished it had not been so realistic. But broadcasts by the RTLM radio station calling on Hutus to take up arms against the Tutsis (even friends, neighbours, and family) have been documented as fact. In December 2003, Harpers.org reported that an international tribunal convicted three journalists for their part in inciting the violence through the airwaves and in print.

The movie uses "foreign journalist" characters to bring out some of the region's history. Perplexed as to the difference between Hutus and Tutsis, these journalists discover that Belgian colonists who favoured the Tutsis aided in accentuating their differences. Despite generations of inter ethnic marriage between Hutus and Tutsis, the Belgians measured things like height and width of noses to determine ethnicity.

The character of Colonel Oliver (Nick Nolte) is an amalgam of several prominent United Nations figures, including Canadian general Romeo Dallaire. I would have liked to see more of the challenges faced by Dallaire himself during this time, but the colonel serves as a creative approach just the same.

The response, or lack thereof, from the international community was shocking and incorporated well into the movie. American officials, who would only acknowledge that "acts of genocide" were occurring in Rwanda, thus avoiding the responsibility to respond, exemplified the game of semantics to avoid public use of the word "genocide."

In his introduction to *Hotel Rwanda*, Harrison stressed the stark similarities between the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the violence currently taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. So far, he said, some 70,000 people have been killed with an estimated 1,000,000 at risk. Various organizations, including Amnesty International, are urging the international community to respond.

Harrison, who also attended the Hollywood premiere of the film—an Amnesty International benefit event—hopes the movie will heighten awareness within the public over human-rights atrocities.

"I hope it will make people aware who would not otherwise be aware."

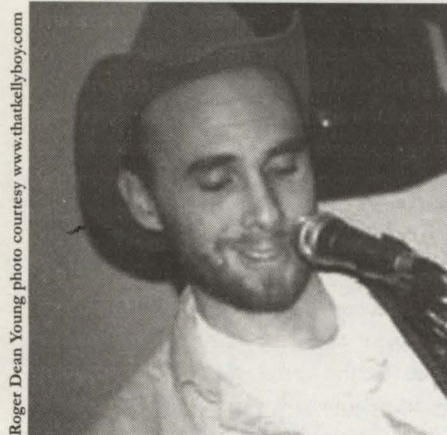
Furthermore, he said, with "A-list" stars like Harrison Ford, Angelina Jolie, and U2 promoting the cause, the Sudan crisis will hopefully get a lot more attention.

While there are countless books that give in-depth accounts of the Rwandan genocide—including Dallaire's own *Shake Hands With the Devil* (Harrison's recommendation) and *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families* by Philip Gourevitch (my recommendation), as well as documentaries such as *The Last Just Man*—*Hotel Rwanda* is yet another story from another perspective that is definitely worth seeing.



# Happy Valentine's Day: Vancouver Eatery is a Turkish Delight of Food, Entertainment

Amanda Aikman, Managing Editor



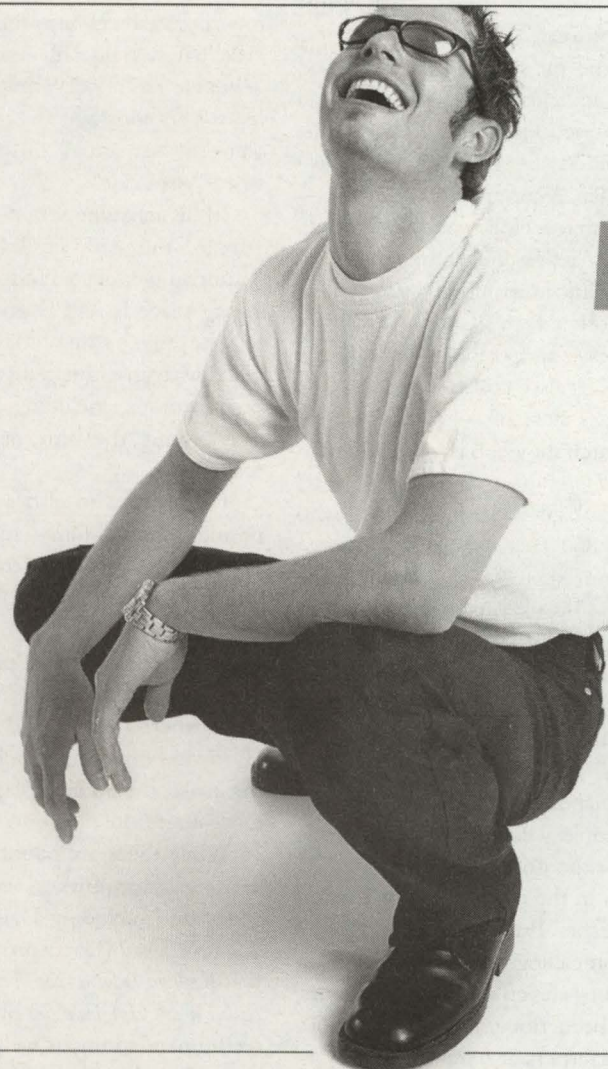
Looking for some place special to wine and dine your sweetheart this Valentine's Day? Then head to Commercial Drive where the friendly folks at rime are dishing out a tasty combination of food, decor, and entertainment. Billed as "Vancouver's only licensed Eurasian eatery and music room," rime is an intimate and welcoming place where the Turkish menu is as

refreshing, inventive, and satisfying as the entertainment gracing the small stage most nights of the week. On the evening I stopped by (Jan 30), Roger Dean Young and the Tin Cup were performing a selection of their moving roots/folk songs. I have had the pleasure of seeing this band before, but it's never the same experience twice. Perhaps that's because the Tin Cup is not a band per se, but rather an evolving and revolving collective of talented musicians. On this particular evening, the incarnation of the Tin Cup on stage at rime had never practiced or played together before—difficult to believe, given the results: two sets of remarkable music ranging from the dramatic and mournful to the charming and joyful. Equally impressive as their ability to play together live and unrehearsed was their ability to overcome the less-than-ideal sound conditions. Early into their first set Young commented, "It sounds like I'm singing out of a tin can up here,"

but the quality improved over the course of the evening. And thankfully so, otherwise we might not have felt the full impact of the beautiful "Red Amber Amulet," featuring the graceful accompaniment of trumpet player Shaun Brodie, or the encore rendition of one of my favourites, the stirring "Helicopter," from Young's previous album, *pilgrim*.

While the band was busy serving up sumptuous sounds on stage, the staff of rime were busy serving up sumptuous food in the rest of the space. Boasting a number of tempting and affordably priced appetizers, main courses, and desserts, rime's menu offers a wonderful variety of dining options for those who are tired of the same old same old everywhere else. And for the less bloodthirsty diners out there, vegetarian and vegan menu selections are conveniently labeled so you don't have to live in fear of a surprise chunk of pork turning up in your entree. I had the cauliflower with

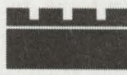
béchamel sauce and baked Gouda cheese...mmmm. It was under eight dollars and came with a mixed green salad, basmati rice and the side of the day (which was potato salad). Sooo good. Next time, I'm going for the barbecued chicken, though. It smelled wonderful and I heard more than one person extolling its virtues throughout the evening. Perhaps I'll find a Valentine and get him to buy it for me on Feb 14. It would be a great night to go, since there will be a special Valentine's Day performance, "Haunted Hearts: Songs for Disenchanted Lovers" by Kate Hammett-Vaughan and Ron Samworth. Or maybe I'll just go by myself on a Sunday for Film Night. On the 13th they're showing one of my all-time favourites, *Barton Fink*. Hmm, great movie, great food, and a couple glasses of red wine—who needs a Valentine, anyway?



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## What's On Around Town

### Campus Events

#### Truly, Madly, Deeply

Second annual fundraising concert presented by the Douglas College Community Music School. Featuring faculty and choral society performing romantic and humorous music. Performing Arts Theatre. Feb 11, 7pm. For tickets and info, call 604.527.5469

#### Sexpo

Come get a heart on in the student union building this Valentine's season. Workshops include Fetish 101, Toys 101, and Safer Sex. Upper Lounge, DSU Building, New West campus. Feb 16-17, 11am-3pm

#### Pink Triangle Pub Night

Douglas Students' Union Pride Collective hosts a fun and fabulous night with live DJs and a drag show. Come and shake a tail feather or two with your fellow students. Upper Lounge, DSU Building, New West campus. Feb 17, 5pm-12am

### Theatre

#### The Trigger

As part of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, Touchstone Theatre presents playwright-performer Carmen Aguirre's unconventional portrait of a violation and its ripples through time. Directed by Katrina Dunn with Aguirre and Dewi Minden. Vancouver East Cultural Centre. To Feb 12. Tickets at Festival Box Office, 604.257.0366

#### Humble Boy

Playhouse Theatre Company presents Charlotte Jones's modern retelling of *Hamlet*, in which a theoretical astrophysicist leaves the safety of his Cambridge studies for his father's funeral. Vancouver Playhouse Theatre. To Feb 19. Tickets \$16-50. For more information, call 604.872.6622

#### Women Take Power

United Players presents Aristophanes' comedy about women who, having gained the majority in parliament, start building a female Utopia. Directed by Conrad Alexandrowicz. Jericho Arts Centre. To Feb. 20, Thurs.-Sun at 8pm. For tickets and information, call 604.224.8007 ext. 2

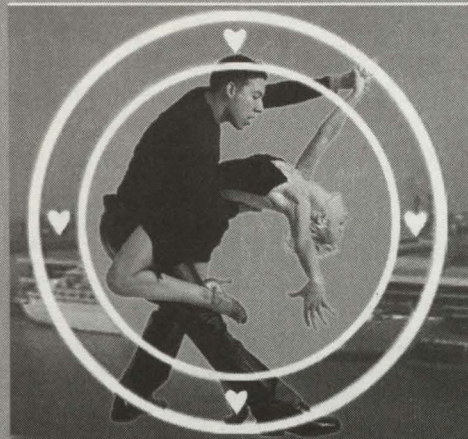
#### Silly Cow

The White Rock Players Club presents Ben Elton's comedy about a tabloid journalist and her inner circle. White Rock Playhouse. Feb 9-23. Tix \$13/11. For more information, call 604.536.7535

#### Six Degrees of Separation

I'm a Little Pickled Theatre presents John Guare's

### Amanda's Pick Of The Week



#### Valentine's Day Salsa Cruise, 2005

Admit it, for years you've harboured the fantasy of being a guest star on *The Love Boat*. You've dreamt of a kinder, gentler time when you could saddle up to the bar between Charro and Sonny Bono as Isaac mixed you up a nice batch of Mai Tais. Well, that ship may have sailed, but if you're still in the market for some "love, exciting and new" you can always "set a course for adventure" on the MV Britannia on Feb 12. With live DJs, free salsa lessons, and a dance show, this night's gonna be hot enough to put the hair back on Captain Stubing's head. Tickets are \$25 in advance (available at Ticketmaster), or \$30 at the door. So what are you waiting for? "Come aboard, we're expecting you..." More information available at [www.salsacruises.com](http://www.salsacruises.com)

drama about a young black con man who insinuates himself into the life of a wealthy New York couple. Presentation House Theatre. Feb 10-26. For tickets and information, call 604.990.3474

### Concerts

#### Kiss Valentines Massive

All-night DJ dance event featuring Lady Dana, Steve Angello, Sharaz, DJ Keri, Midus, David Garibaldi, Dave Armstrong, Hyperfunk, Thomas Mezey, and Slynus. Riverside Hall (14500 River Rd., Richmond). Feb 12, 10pm-8am. Tickets \$75/50 (plus service charge) at Boomtown, On Deck, and Laramy

#### Strings and Chocolate

The John Gilliat Group is featured in an evening of flamenco guitar and world-beat rhythms. Firehall Centre for the Arts. Feb 12, 8pm. Tickets \$15/12. For information, call 604-596-1025

#### Sweetheart Ball

Fundraiser for the North Vancouver Community Arts Council features performances by the 18-piece Deep Cove Swing Band and a cabaret performance by vocal quartet A String of Girls. The Armoury (1513 Forbes Ave., North Van.). Feb 12, 7:30pm-12am. Tickets \$50/35. For information, call 604.988.6844

#### Valentine's Metal Massacre

Featuring local metal bands Uncle Sid, Catapult, and Soldierof4tune. The Drink/Red Room. Feb 12, 7-11pm. Tickets \$5. For information, call 604.687.1307

#### Paul Westerberg

Minneapolis rock legend, former leader of the Replacements, plays tunes from latest solo CD, *Folker*. Commodore Ballroom. Feb 17, 9:15pm. Tickets \$30 (plus service charges and fees) at Ticketmaster, 604.280.4444. Tickets also at Zulu Records

### Galleries

#### Imaginative Fantasy

Paintings by Temple Bates. Atelier Gallery. To Feb 17. For more information, call 604.732.3021

#### The Underwear Show

Featuring works by 22 artists in a variety of media. Cityscape Community Art Space. To Mar 6. For more information, call 604.988.6844

#### The Infinity Project

Installation of work by more than 100 local, national, and international artists. Helen Pitt Gallery. To Feb 12. For more information, call 604.681.6740

#### Vishal Jugdeo

Recent works by Jugdeo. Western Front. To Feb 19. For more information, call 604.878.7563

#### Real Pictures: Photographs from the Collection of Claudia Beck and Andrew Gruft

More than 300 photographic works, including pieces by Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Frank, André Kertész, Nadar, William Henry Fox Talbot, Edward Weston, Roy Arden, Stephen Waddell, Scott McFarland, and Karin Bubas. Vancouver Art Gallery. To May 29. For more information, call 604.662.4719



## The Rose

You gave me  
The rose.  
Delicate, beautiful,  
And red.  
Red as the blood  
That coursed through your veins  
Giving you life.

You told me  
The rose  
Was a symbol of your love  
For me.  
Delicate, beautiful,  
And red.  
Red as the fire  
That coursed through your veins  
Giving you life.

That rose,  
I still have.  
Pressed between two sheets of waxed paper,  
It has dried.  
The green of the leaves,  
Of the stem,  
Is burnt.  
The red of the petals,  
Once delicate and moist,  
Now black,  
Hard and brittle.

But the rose is still fragrant.  
When I close my eyes  
And inhale,  
I also inhale memories  
Of your love.

- Kat Code



## Still Single

Throughout the land happy couples abound!  
Or so it seems, when I look all around.  
With no little bitterness shaping my tone,  
I do declare I'm happy alone!  
Why should it be, something's wrong with me?  
Perhaps I've yet to meet the man with the key.  
Or perhaps my standards they find daunting,  
Perhaps I find all men wanting.  
Perhaps I'm too romantic to settle,  
Perhaps it's all just testing my mettle.  
Perhaps the trouble *does* lie with me—  
When they look at me, what do I see?  
They approach me with a pedestal  
I refuse to get on, only to fall.  
Isn't it enough that love's an illusion,  
Utterly simple yet causing confusion?

- Kat Code



## The Romance of the Moment

By: Darren Paterson

He gazed into her eyes  
into her mind  
into her heart  
into her soul.

Everything in the room was motionless, silent.  
There was nothing in the room.  
There was no room.

Her skin was soft, spotless, like a picture.  
She smelled sweet, sweet as a dream.  
He could feel the warmth of her body.  
He read the invitation that rested on her lips.

He felt a dull pain - her beauty  
had taken hold of his heart  
and he felt weak from the pressure  
of the firm grip  
on his tender bruise.

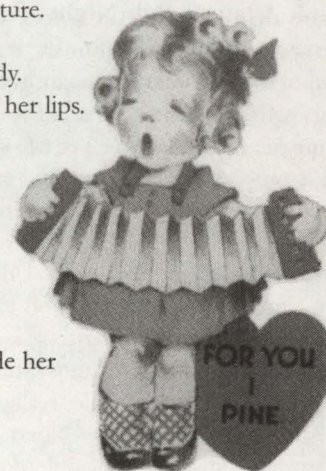
A radiance exploded from deep inside her  
and reached out,  
seeking to engulf him,  
to pull him in.

But this was what he wanted,  
this was what he yearned for every night,  
this was what he begged  
of any god that would hear his pleas.

He desperately wished to be surrounded  
by her warm radiance  
her beauty  
her love.

He was ready for that,  
he was ready to be held,  
he was ready to feel safe,  
he was ready to be loved,  
he was ready to—"That'll be four-sixty-two please."

He paid-took his peppermint mocha-and left.



## The Flame that is you and I

The flame that is you and I  
Is lost somewhere,  
Somewhere amid the distance between us.  
It is glimpsed, now and then.  
Glimpsed in the beauty of a sunset,  
In the vastness of a velvet night  
Strewn with shining winking stars,  
In the music that brings tears to the eyes.  
Like the smoldering embers of a fire relit,  
The flame that is you and I  
Burns brighter, hotter, fiercer  
Everytime we meet again.  
And everytime we meet again,  
The flame that is you and I  
Grows larger and more substantial,  
Bringing us closer and closer together  
As it ignites our passion to devour us.

-Kat Code





## Where is the Love? Dating in the 21st century

Nicole Baute, *The Silhouette* (McMaster University)

HAMILTON (CUP)—Cupid's got a brand-new bag, and you can bet it ain't full of promise rings. Think more along the lines of cheap drinks, online dating memberships, and free condoms—lots of them.

Let's face it, chances are your parents were either engaged or married by their mid-20s. In 1970, the average first-time newlyweds were 25-year-old men and 23-year-old women. By '98, the husbands were 29 and the wives were 27. Add to that the staggering divorce rate, and the fact that people increasingly choose not to marry at all, and the result is the shocking, even horrifying, generation of the living singles.

The emergence of this new demographic of the relatively unattached has too many causes to name. Some put the onus on changes in women's social roles—others on a genuine fear of divorce, as many have watched a marriage unravel firsthand. Whatever the reason, there's no doubt the 21st Century is ushering in a generation that simply wants more than white picket fences and cozy marital beds. We crave careers, travel, and disposable incomes, and want these cravings satisfied before we're really ready to consider settling down. Yet, we still need to connect with people. So, we make friends. We have sex. And sometimes, we date.

Volunteers at McMaster University's Student Health and Education Centre in Hamilton, Ontario, admit that dating isn't necessarily a priority for most students.

"I think some people really want a relationship," says Jessica Gilbert, a health sciences student, "but people don't have any time for one, so (casual sex) is a good substitute."

"Everyone I see isn't really looking for love, they're looking for lovin'," says Dan Ignas, an engineering student. "People are crazy busy. Everyone just wants to get a quick piece. You want to roll up to the window, get a little love."

And surprisingly, a drive-thru metaphor may not be a bad way to describe contemporary dating. Especially when it's so easy to browse through an online catalogue or go to a speed-dating event to sample some of the available products. People involved in today's dating scene want variety and accessibility.

English and cultural studies professor Marc Ouellette agrees that some of these dating trends do oddly resemble shopping. More and more, people are treating

other people the way we treat commodities.

"I find that the whole thing is that we consume, consume, and when we're done with it we just throw it away," he says. "Regardless of if it has any sort of use value, or if we've even considered the use value. It's wrong to consider a person in terms of use value, but that's what our culture does with everything."

In a society that values material things the way we do, it shouldn't be surprising that people are becoming another thing to shop for. Just log onto [www.lavalife.com](http://www.lavalife.com), where you'll be greeted by colourful pictures of beautiful young people laughing over coffee in a trendy restaurant. Here you can scroll through thousands of profiles of single people looking to hook up for "dating," "relationships," or "intimate encounters."

Everyone has their own personal ad campaign, with catch phrases that range from the simple, "I'm fun, give me a try!" to the smarter, "Your mom would love me," to the oddly challenging, "Spawning salmon...catch me and can me!" And of course, if you want to cut to the chase you can narrow your search by age, body type,

location, religion—you name it.

Proud to be "the largest independent providers of technology-based dating services," Lavalife's Internet division boasts 1,000,000 active members, and another 4,000,000 or so who have created accounts that have been (perhaps temporarily) abandoned. In a May 2003 press release, CEO Bruce Croxon encourages people to be active about dating. "Don't leave everything to chance," he says. "Control your own destiny is our message to singles."

Lavalife Inc. is just one little cupid in the suddenly booming matchmaking industry that is raking in over a billion dollars a year. Besides the abundance of online dating companies, there are also a variety of other new services promising to bring people to their happily-ever-afters. Or at least their happily-for-a-whiles.

One of these new trends is speed dating, which resembles a confusing version of musical chairs. Singles gather in a fashionable bar or café and take turns rotating dates in three- to ten-minute intervals. At the end of the evening, participants use their trusty little scorecards to categorize all their dates as "hits" or "misses," and

the company reveals contact information to both parties when "hits" match up. Companies like the American HurryDate throw parties in Canada, Australia, the UK, and the US, and charge \$35 per person for each party.

For cell-phone junkies, new text dating services like VCM's MobileHookup serve as a cellular version of speed dating. Participants create appealing profiles to encourage other available singles to message them, for the low price of just 30 cents a message. If message receivers like what they read, they can opt for the Talk Now option, which sets them up for an anonymous five-minute call. Singles can participate in as many of these five-minute conversations as they please until they find someone intriguing enough to want a second phone date with—or maybe even a real-life one.

And plenty of others are willing and eager to play matchmaker—for a small fee, of course. Take the New York-based Janis Spindel, who charges wealthy men a mere \$16,500 a pop (and up) to be set up with the glamorous, beautiful women she picks up in ritzy department stores on Fifth Avenue. Or entrepreneurs Marni





Kinrys and Nina Rubin, who started a service for “the shy guy” called IceBreakers, which helps men approach women in LA bars for just \$100 US.

Although some of these services are definitely marketed to people looking for love, most only guarantee a good time. And for many participants, a good time is exactly what they’re looking for.

A McMaster student who used to be an active member in the online dating service, Meet Me in T.O., explains that many young people use the service simply because it provides easy access to many potential sexual partners at any given time.

“Guys on the Internet talk about sex right away,” she says, stating that this would never happen at a bar. Suggesting the need for variety, she adds: “If you go to a bar there’s only, say 200 people. On (Meet Me in T.O.) there’s thousands.”

As implied by the service’s name, Meet Me in T.O. is an open forum organized around the idea that all of its 135,000 or

so members live in or near Toronto. Some meet in Toronto just to hang out or go on a date, and others strictly for a little bedroom fun.

Whereas the very youngest users on Lavalife are 18, and many are middle-aged or older, the Meet Me in T.O. crowd has plenty of participants as young as 16. Often these participants are still in high school, and most likely live with their parents. The most surprising of these are the profiles of young women whose “About Me” section admits, “I’m really only 15,” or proclaims, “I’m sexy and I’ve gotta nice booty.”

Despite the overzealous popularity of today’s “blame the media” strategy, it’s difficult not to consider the influences that shape young people’s attitudes about sex and dating. Whereas our grandparents will swear that in their day dating was a respectable event, television shows like *The Average Joe* and *Blind Date* portray dating as deceitful, competitive, and often

fruitless. “Admit it,” challenges SpikeTV, referring to the *Blind Date* participants, “you love it when they hate each other.”

Professor Marc Ouellette is quick to criticize today’s “obvious” media influences “shaping our habits and shaping what we know.” Besides TV dating shows and wedding shows, which he believes “create unrealistic expectations for viewers,” he also points to cultural icons like rapper 50 Cent, with his famous song that boasts “I’m into having sex/I ain’t into making love.”

“He obviously has some sort of cultural purchase,” says Ouellette, “and he’s willing to display, with quite a bit of bravado, his gunshot wounds. But he’s afraid to commit to a woman? Or another human being?”

Many students hesitate to use the dreaded F-phrase—“fear of commitment”—as Karen McMaster, a commerce student admits. “Most people are a little scared, at this point, to get into anything

serious right away.”

“I think everybody’s just having some fun right now,” says fellow commerce student, Joe Meyer.

“I think people’s priorities are themselves,” says Dan Ignas. “I think it’s all about selfishness and temporary satisfaction.”

Then has dating, a process that used to be considered a means to an end, in many cases become an end in itself? Well, before we panic and declare a status red in the land of singledom, maybe there is a glimmer of hope. Because maybe, just maybe, this is all “just a phase,” as our optimistic mothers would say, shaking their heads.

“Sooner or later everyone is going to be looking for love,” says Carrie Krueger, a nursing student. “It just might be later rather than sooner.”

## Maria DeVries’ Sustainable Business Plan

Melissa Beedle, Features Editor

Maria DeVries’s work has given new meaning to the old cliché of one man’s junk being another man’s treasure. DeVries, Vice President of the Delta Chamber of Commerce and co-founder of the Tilbury Eco Industrial Partnership (TEIP), has co-created a plan to help businesses exchange items they would otherwise dispose of. The strategy is the first of its kind in Delta and is a rare endeavour because of the Delta Chamber of Commerce’s involvement.

After attending an Eco Industrial Networking meeting, DeVries says that light bulbs went off. She realized that business in itself is not bad; it is the backbone of our communities. “But,” says DeVries, “It’s equally important to consider the environment and to work with a social conscience.” DeVries credits Joe Thwaites for teaching her much of what she knows about business and sustainability.

“Partnership is critical,” says DeVries. “Businesses, whether competing or not, can cooperate to save some of our earth’s precious resources and it doesn’t have to cost a thing. In fact, many of our members are actually saving money.”

DeVries congratulated three local businesses, Captain Toyota, Westbay Sunship, and M & J Woodworks, for

being particularly successful with their sustainability efforts.

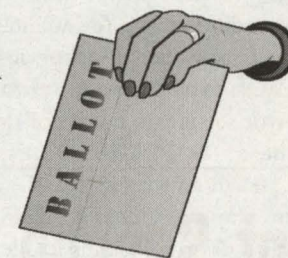
“After joining TEIP,” says DeVries, “Westbay Sunship found a way to reuse all the wooden crates they were once disposing of. Instead of paying to dispose of them, they have been using their leftover crates as an energy resource in one of their warehouses.”

Last year, DeVries won the Business award for her work at the Burns Bog Conservation Society’s annual Celebrating Women and the Spirit of the Cranes event, which honours women who are making a difference in our communities.

About being a woman in business DeVries says, “I don’t think in terms of gender. I prefer to think about cooperating and communicating. Whatever you do, you have to live with yourself.”

Nominations are still being accepted for this year’s Celebrating Women and the Spirit of the Cranes event in the following categories: Arts, Business, Community, Science/Technology, and Young Women (under 25). The event will be held on March 5, 2005, at the Kennedy House Senior Centre in Delta. For more information, contact the Burns Bog Conservation Society at 604.572.0373.

### FEBRUARY 10, 2005 BY-ELECTION FOR A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO EDUCATION COUNCIL



A by-election will take place to elect one representative for the New Westminster campus to the Education Council. Polling stations will be available at both campuses. The polls will be open from 9am to 4:30pm on February 10, 2005.

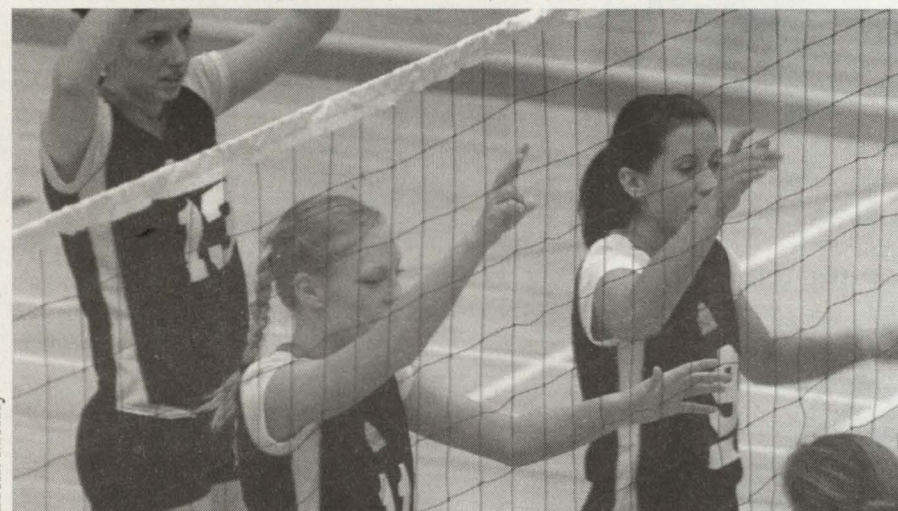
#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

Students who are taking 50% or more of their courses at the New Westminster campus are eligible to vote in this by-election. The election is being held to fill a vacancy and the term of office will run until AUGUST 31, 2005. Student’s eligibility is determined by the registration in courses as shown on the Douglas College Student Information System. If you have questions concerning the by-election, please contact the Registrar at 604.527.5358.



## Volleyball in Review

Darren Paterson, Sports Editor



Brent Morley

### Royals Struck Down by Wrath of God

The Douglas College Royals Men's Volleyball team felt the wrath of God last week as they were brutally humbled by the Columbia Bible College (CBC) Bearcats. The Royals entered the match with a 6-6 record and left with another loss and a whole lot of shame after being downed by the 1-11 Bearcats. It wasn't just a loss—it was an embarrassment. The match's tone was set early, as CBC jumped out to an 11-3 lead to start the first game with all the calls going their way before they closed out a bewildered-looking Royals team.

Douglas did manage to mount a second-game attack, thanks to the inspired play of Captain and third-year veteran Jeff Payne. Payne seemed to be one of the few

Douglas players who really cared, and, by following his lead, the Royals managed to hold on to win the second game, despite a late surge from the Bearcats.

However, the Royals were unable to capitalize on this momentum swing as the Bearcats replied in kind with an 8-1 run to start the third game. The Royals were simply outmatched as the Bearcats shone with superior power and team play. CBC led by as many as 11 points in the game, and, before long, it was over.

The fourth game saw a spark of life from the Royals, but their inability to sustain that energy again saw to their downfall. It was this inability to maintain intensity that Royals coach Mike Sapic pointed to as well, as he is working hard to reform the team in the wake of losing

many players in the semester change. Sapic did, however, see a strength in the efforts of Payne and Setter Ryan Brant who, according to his coach, showed a good fighting spirit and was consistent throughout the game.

After the loss, Douglas slipped into a three-way tie for 6th place in league standings, and CBC moved out of the league basement into the basement's staircase.

Final score: 16-25, 25-23, 20-25, 23-25.

### Women Fight for Exciting Win

The Douglas Women's Volleyball team made up for the Men's loss with a tense and exciting win over CBC's Women's Bearcats. The match was a seesaw battle in which neither team was able to hold on for an extended lead. The intensity was heightened by a large turnout of raucous CBC fans who largely overshadowed the meager DC fan base, despite the fact that the match was being held on DC territory in Coquitlam's Pinetree Community Centre. But the Royals were prepared for the crowd, and the unfamiliarity of the Coquitlam Campus venue, and once the game got going, they were able to really focus on playing.

However, CBC had come to play as well, and the two teams set a torrid pace in the first game with the Bearcats finally winning with a tight 26-24 score. This was followed by a strong game from

Douglas that saw the Royals win by 25-22, the largest win margin that either team would see in the game.

Back and forth the third game went, with many hotly contested points and long rallies with CBC coming out as the eventual winners by another tight score of 26-24. Yet Douglas again had the answer as they found a huge swing of momentum in the fourth game that pushed them to a 19-11 lead. But a timely time-out by CBC sparked a 10-2 run for the Bearcats and the game was soon tied at 21 before both teams again battled to a 26-24 end in favour of the Royals. All of this excitement culminated in the fifth and deciding game as the Royals received key efforts from key players to finally win the match with a 15-13 game score.

Co-Coach Becki Kosinski pointed to her team's quick transition and solid passing as the source of the win. Kosinski also noted Captain Krista Schmidt as a key component to the win. Schmidt's effort won her BCCAA player of the week honours as she led her team with 20 kills including three key kills late in the match. This effort was complimented by a strong game from Lauren Stockstad who chipped in with 15 kills of her own.

The win pushed Douglas to an 8-5 record, good enough for fifth place in league standings as of last week.

Final score: 24-26, 25-22, 24-26, 26-24, 15-13.

## Giant Season in the Works

Travis Paterson, OP Contributor

Already a successful hockey club, the Vancouver Giants, who have played their first three years largely in the shadow of the Canucks, are benefiting largely from the NHL strike, as the Canucks are no longer providing such stiff competition.

Prior to the start of the WHL season, Giants' owner Ron Toigo made a successful bid to host the 2005 CHL Prospects game. This game, taking place at the mid-season mark of January 19, was a great success in drawing the attention of the hockey world to Vancouver. In an effort to further promote the Giants, Toigo mass marketed a campaign for the Prospects game, with a series of Brule vs. Crosby posters. And when Crosby can-

celled days before the game due to a sore back, Toigo played it up, making a giant-sized stink on sports radio and in the papers. However, his outbursts and his marketing have all played a role in his successful plan to heighten Vancouver's awareness of its "other" hockey franchise.

To add even more excitement, the Giants' greatest asset, star forward and pride of North Vancouver Gilbert Brule netted a hat trick in the Prospects game—a first for the annual event—and received player-of-the-game honours from Don Cherry.

All this excitement has paid off in the form of record-setting attendance at the Pacific Coliseum. And the upper deck, usually draped off for ambience, has been opened up to fans as a result of the team's heightened popularity with hockey-starved Vancouverites.

Unfortunately, the Giants season was off to a bumpy start with captain and defensive anchor Mark Fistric forfeiting most of the year due to a busted jaw (then returning early from injury and getting in a fight and busting it again). The Giants

are safely in playoff contention, but their chances of playoff success hinge greatly on the return of Fistric.

Another player with whom the Giants' success is linked is Gilbert Brule, whose hat trick in the Prospects game has not gone unnoticed. He is beginning to create high expectations for himself. Ironically, Brule's stock among draft-eligible players was second, behind Crosby for most of the season, until evaluations released just prior to the Prospects game dropped him to sixth.

Don Cherry, questioned after the Prospects game about Brule's play, responded "I don't think he'll be [ranked] number six after this game. I don't know what those [scouting] guys are smoking."

As of February 2, Brule stood second in scoring with 66 points in 51 games, 11 points ahead of former Giant Ty Morris, who has blossomed into a scoring machine since being traded to the Red Deer Rebels earlier this season.

Currently at third place in the BC Division, the Giants dropped their last two games of January. Statistically, the G-



Men are starting February in a slump, but they played well during a loss to first-place Kelowna on January 29, holding on until the last two minutes of the game before giving up the winning goal.

The Giants return from a six-game road trip to host Ty Morris and the Red Deer Rebels on February 16.



# Paterson vs. Paterson

Darren and Travis Paterson, Sports Guys



**Darren says:** The ass-slap is a silly and outdated ritual that should be banned from all sports. Although it may seem harmless, the darkness of this act stems from its source.

Players in major sports today slap ass unconsciously, and little is thought of it when it happens. But why have they developed this unconscious display of affection? Because of pedophilic little-league coaches. That's why.

Athletes at young ages are taught that it's okay for coach to touch their bums because it's just a way of saying "way to go!" without actually voicing the words. This evil indoctrination, along with its twin brother, the jock-check, has given little-league coaches around the world full access to little kids' bodies, and that has got to stop.

Furthermore, why is it that spanking has been deemed illegal in the regular world, while a good ol' slap remains a common occurrence in the sporting world? And I tell you, if I hit a key three-point shot late in the game, and someone slapped my ass, it wouldn't take long for my jubilation to turn to rage.

That's why the focus-killing, pedophilic, ass-slap must be removed from sports today.



**Travis says:** Without question, I feel there are homoerotic overtones in many professional sports, mostly punctuated by a good ass-slap. Just picture all those pillow-biting Greeks getting oiled up for some wrestling at the early Olympiads. There was ass-grabbing galore in those days, so perhaps all this modern-day slapping is just a legacy passed down from the Greco-Romans? If so, who am I to argue with such a rich and long-standing tradition as that?

My own experience excluded, I'd have to say that if ass-slapping weren't allowed, it would probably lead to more pinching, groping, caressing, and other unmanly conduct unbecoming of a pro athlete. And I, for one, don't like the idea of being caressed by any 300 lb lineman named Bubba.

More importantly, is there any possibility to extend the ass-slap to other areas of life? I've heard of office harassment, but what if it was okay? Why don't Starbucks' employees bump cheeks every time a latte goes out real flippin' hot? Or how about the board members of a Fortune 500 company giving each other firm, openhanded slaps on the ass after a successful corporate takeover?



## The Best of Sport

Darren Paterson, Sports Editor

When my editor suggested that we write themed articles for this Valentine's Day issue I found myself at a mental impasse. Do I write articles about the beauty and wondrousness of love in order to create the impression that I'm not depressingly lonely? Or do I take the opposite approach and voice my growing distaste for love and its detestable holiday, thereby exposing my true weaknesses?

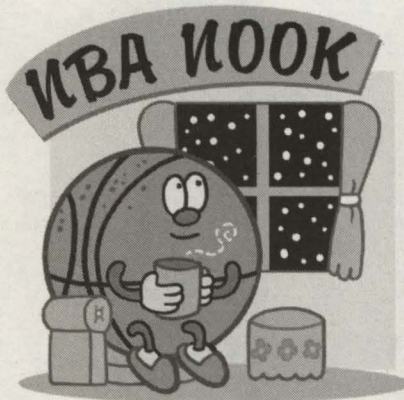
Well, after musing on this subject for many an hour, I came to three very important conclusions. One: sex sells. Two: my laundry will never learn to bathe itself. And three: the only loves I have left are writing and sports. And with the coming of that third conclusion I sat right down at my computer desk and wrote this snappy opening to an otherwise dull article. But if you're not afraid of the written word, then read on, dear friend, read on! Yes, that's it. Read on as I describe for you just what it is that makes me love sports so much.

Because I've found that when you

live a life like mine, where all paths lead to heartbreak and disappointment, a thing like sports, which can so effectively clear your mind, is an invaluable asset. No, wait, it is valuable, very valuable. Because the strength that a game of pick-up has to erase all thought of the hurtful and depressing events of your life holds much more value than a few meaningless nights with some shameless hussy.

And that's not just because playing a sport forces you to focus on something other than your pathetic love life. Because physical activity also acts as a release for stress-causing hormones, so that by the time you're done sweating to the oldies, you really do feel more relaxed and more positive. And besides, I don't know about you, but after a good game I usually feel so bushed that I forget all about having any troubles in the first place.

So, you go to sleep unaware of your trifling troubles in love and when you wake up and remember how much you hate life, all you have to do is call up your friends and go down to the park. Gee, I've sort of taken a negative stance on love as this article has gone on, eh? Well, I'll finish it up then and say that sports are a cure-all for your stress-filled life—though people harp on the physical benefits of sports, it is often forgotten how much they can do to revive you mentally—and that fact represents, to me, the best of sports.



Well, it seems that Kobe Bryant really is "just too much," as Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich has resigned from his posi-

tion citing health reasons. Tomjanovich, at 56 years of age, will remain with the team as a consultant, but the two-time championship-winning coach has declared that he will never coach again. Assistant coach Frank Hamblen has been promoted in the meantime, taking over the task of taming Kobe and leading the Lakers.

The Phoenix Suns hit a little hiccup, and Steve Nash's importance to his team's success was made clear. The team seemed unable to put two passes together while Nash was down with an injury, but they were immediately rejuvenated with his return. The question that surrounds the Suns now is, can they maintain their energetic play for an entire season?

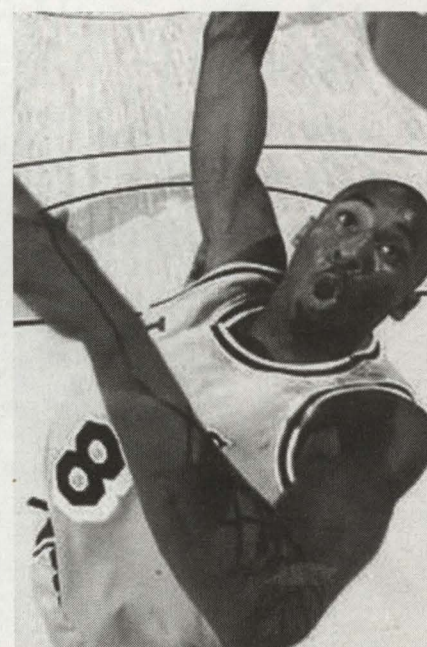
In weird news, the Toronto Raptors

are somehow still in the hunt for a play-off spot and the Chicago Bulls have found their game and also appear to be threatening now. And no, it's not because Jordan, Pippen, and Rodman rejoined their old team.

A new record has been set, as Yao Ming received 2,558,278 online votes to secure his place as a starter in the NBA all-star game. The record was previously held by Michael Jordan who received roughly 2.4 million votes in '97. All in all, the starting line-ups for the all-star game look something like this:

Eastern: Shaquille O'Neal, Allen Iverson, Vince Carter, Grant Hill, and LeBron James.

Western: Yao Ming, Kevin Garnett, Tim Duncan, Kobe Bryant, and Tracy McGrady.





## DOUGLAS SCOREBOARD

## Women's Volleyball

Douglas 3 – CBC 2  
(24–26, 25–22, 24–26, 26–24, 15–13)

## Men's Volleyball

Douglas 1 – CBC 3  
(16–25, 25–23, 20–25, 23–25)

## Badminton

See next week's issue for statistics from all three BCCAA badminton tournaments.

## EVENTS CALENDER

Fri, Feb 11

\* **Women's Volleyball**  
vs. Camosun Chargers @ 6:30pm  
(New West)

\* **Men's Volleyball**  
vs. Camosun Chargers @ 8:15pm  
(New West)

**Women's Basketball**  
6:30pm @ Camosun Chargers  
(Victoria)

**Men's Basketball**  
8:15pm @ Camosun Chargers  
(Victoria)

Sat, Feb 12

\* **Women's Rugby (2nd Division)**  
vs. Trinity Western Spartans @  
11:30am (Queen's Park)

\* **Women's Volleyball**  
vs. Malaspina Mariners @ 2:00pm

(New West)

\* **Men's Volleyball**  
vs. Malaspina Mariners @ 4:00pm  
(New West)

**Women's Basketball**  
2:00pm @ Malaspina Mariners  
(Nanaimo)

**Men's Basketball**  
4:00pm @ Malaspina Mariners  
(Nanaimo)

(\* Denotes home games)

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Ad Manager | kinggadas@yahoo.com

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BenQ Write & Store Combo. Retail boxed BenQ 8x DVD Writer, 25-spindle DVD+R and envelopes all for the great price of \$120. If interested, please email me at <andre@acepccanada.com>

## I Saw You

You've been taking a bite out of my ham, mustard, lettuce, tomato, thinly-sliced cheddar, and butter sandwich on whole-wheat bread when you think I'm not looking. But I saw you last time, and if I catch you doing it again I'm gonna eat your children. PS: I love you.

We walked past each other in an empty hallway. I don't know if you saw me but I sure saw you. Walking became mechanical after I was struck by your beauty and time slowed down, causing the few moments that you were in my sight to turn into an eternity of bliss. I should've said something, but I

was too busy restarting my heart, so that by the time I had regained myself, you were gone. It was Friday the 4th, just before 7, if you remember then please, give me just one chance to impress you as you have impressed me. My e-mail is I\_Believe@hotmail.com and I do.

## Services

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Vancouver Support group for stutterers. Every alternate Friday, 7–9pm. Room 4310, New West campus. For more info, contact Mary Rose Labandelo: 604.526.1735

## Wanted

Slightly dog-eared British bulldog, having recently slipped his leash from previous long-term owner, seeks new female companion. Easygoing, loyal, house trained, educated, loves motor-bikes, photography, and intellectual pursuits.  
redcoat1812@hotmail.com

OPTions for Sexual Health (formerly Planned Parenthood) is looking for volunteers to assist on the Facts of Life Line, a toll-free, confidential, sexual health information and referral

resource line. Call 604.731.4552 ext. 224, or visit <www.optionsforsexualhealth.com>



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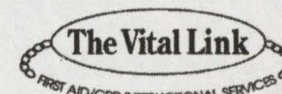
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**February 14, 2005**

**is the 26th anniversary of  
Pink Triangle Day, the only  
annual Canadian holiday that  
celebrates the victories of the  
queer community, and the  
existence, strength and beauty  
of love in all of its forms.**

**Douglas Students' Union Pride Collective**

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